

WARREN
MAGAZINE



CREEPY
#81

JULY 1976

CREEPY

\$1.00

56300-8
PDC



IN THE WINTER SKY...AMID DOGFIGHTING BI-PLANES...
HELL'S NIGHTSHADE DEMONS BATTLE "BRANNIGAN'S GREMLINS"

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It is the "war to end all wars" and Brannigan's gremlins are waging their own battle... against the evil demons of the Axis. Incredibly exciting cover by Ken Kelly.

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CREEPY NO. 81 PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT APRIL, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION AND BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE: (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 9 ISSUES FOR \$10.00 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$12.00.

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CREEPY®

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16 WINGS OF VENGEANCE Life was hell for Omar. His beloved Gretchen would soon become his father's unwilling bride. Caught in a sorrowing embrace, the young lover's life of horror really began!

25 WAR He was the purest of soldiers... and war was all he had ever known. Neither love nor duty impelled him to pull the trigger. It was just that killing didn't matter any more. Had it ever mattered?

33 CLOSE SHAVE Eddy's razor was sharpened to a hair-edge. His shaking hand held it poised above Tyson's throat. One slash and Tyson's wife... and money... would be his. It was that simple. Wasn't it?

38 BATTLE ROT Sigfried, the arrogant Axis ace, scorned the Infantry... and their talk of zombie corpses. He feared nothing. 'Til his plane crashed. And he encountered the terrible walking dead!

45 BILICAR & MOLYWAMBLES The teacher locked Billy in a closet. And he simply disappeared... fell into a terrifying world. Where good people were witches, and Molywambles ate human hearts!

Dear Uncle Creepy...



In balance, CREEPY #79 was a good, well-crafted issue... not spectacular, just good solid CREEPY literature.

Several spots of excellence did exist, however. The cover was truly a masterpiece of nearly photographic realism painted by a very gifted artist. I question, however, if that artist was Sanjulian. It looked more like Enrich to me. What about it, folks?

Budd Lewis "The Pit..." was a powerful tale replete with moody lyricism.

But in my opinion, the high point of the issue was Jim Stenstrum's delightful "Super Abnormal Survival Kit". Stenstrum trod the fine line between satire and parody with marvelous success and the versatile and masterful John Severin provided the perfect graphic embodiment for the tale. I rank "... Survival Kit" among the few completely enjoyable graphic stories I've had the pleasure to read.

ED O'REILLY
Ada, Ohio



Right, Ed. The much praised cover of CREEPY #79 was painted by Enrich. The editor's apologies to Enrich for this misprint.

CREEPY #79 was a particularly fine issue! Every story was tops... fantastic!

"Kui" was one of Alex Toth's finest tales to date and marks his increasing adeptness as a writer. He has been a gifted artist for years.

But the real winner of the issue was Bruce Jones' "As Ye Sow." What a shocker! A story filled with horror upon gory horror as ghoulish baby-eating vampires stalk a decimated world. Luis Bermejo's delicate art provided the perfect counterpoint to this tale of terror. This should be another Warren Award winner next time around, for sure!

ALEX RUDNOV
New York, N.Y.

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed CREEPY #79. There wasn't really a bad story in the lot.

Top honors for this issue must go to Jim Stenstrum and John Severin for "The S.A. P.S. Kit". This piece (you can't really call it a story) deserves a special Warren award. I haven't enjoyed Severin's work so much since the early days of Mad... but, I always was a sucker for anything that could make me laugh out loud...!

More! More!! More!!!

WILLIAM NEVILLE
Cut Off, La.

Re: CREEPY #79.
"As Ye Sow" was the winner of a fantastic issue.
More stories by Bruce Jones please.

SETH ABRAMSON
New York, N.Y.

Enrich's cover, of course, had very little to do with the story. "As Ye Sow"... except a vague resemblance to the blond lead character and an eerie ghoulish theme. Still, Enrich's work is head and shoulders above most anyone else's in the field... and that cover was a particularly impressive example of his work.

Bruce Jones script for "As Ye Sow" was one of the best vampire yarns in recent years. I wonder, though, whether it was necessary to blow away half of the girls face to attain that effect of stomach wrenching horror. Wouldn't the ending have been just as horrible, in a more subtle way, without it?

Artwise, "Kui" was one of those rare, perfect combinations of art and story. Not one panel too long... no flashy production techniques... just word and pictures meshing in the service of storytelling. Suffice it to say, most of the people writing and drawing comics today could take a few lessons from Alex Toth.

"The Shadow of the Axe" was not at all what I had expected. It was more subtle... more literate, than your average comics script. The name Dave Sim is new to me. But if this is a fair sample of his work I would enjoy more stories by him.

And Russ Heath is back! His classy illustrations nicely complemented the story, and marked a strong return for an artist too long absent from the pages of the Warren magazines!

"Visitation at Pliny Marsh" was okay, but could have been better if Gerry Boudreau had thought a couple things through.

For example, although Joe Prentiss had been dead nearly a quarter century (and looks every day of it), nobody had any difficulty recognizing him! Otherwise, fine!

Keep those CREEPY thrills and chills coming!

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

CREEPY #79 started out with a beautifully rendered Enrich cover! And Jose Ortiz rendition of Uncle Creepy was excellent... why he looked almost human! All in all, a great issue. I look forward to #80.

RUSSELL CONDELLO
Rochester, N.Y.

Issue #79 is one of the best CREEPY's ever. I have a complaint about one story only. My gripe concerns "Kui" by Alex Toth. It was simply too short! More Toth! Longer Toth stories! Toth is tops!

"The Super-Abnormal Phenomena Survival Kit" was hilarious. One of the best stories of its kind I have ever read.

Next comes "Visitation at Pliny Marsh." I really got involved in that one to the point where I was angry at the ending. It was wrong!

The best story of the issue was "Shadow of the Axe." Incredible art by Russ Heath and a fabulous script by Dave Sim helped create a story that was unforgettable fine!

MATTHEW HUDSON
Locust Grove, Okla.

My favorite story was "The Shadow of the Axe" by Dave Sim and Russ Heath. I think that what I enjoyed most was the subtle story telling. You never really know why the father was an axe murderer but that is not important. In fact, it is in this case an asset.

Since the story is told through the eyes of his son, we see and know only what the boy sees and knows. And his decisive action, when he discovers the truth about his father's activities and resolves to end his mother's anguish is all that is needed to make this a fine story. The ending is a shocker... without being gimmicky.

Heath's art was the perfect compliment to this excellent story.

More art by this master, please. He's one of my favorites.

FRED KIMMER
Limerick, Ireland



You'll be delighted to learn, Fred, that Russ Heath will have another masterful tale in the upcoming CREEPY #83.

I am totally disappointed by one story in CREEPY #79.

This magazine is supposed to feature horror... not humor. Especially comedy as corny as in the "Super Abnormal Survival Kit". I think CREEPY should do better.

I have no complaints about the other stories.

JOHN MARTIN
Shreveport, Louisiana

The cover of CREEPY #79 was breathtaking! Superior! Fabulous. Enrich's skill is fantastic.

This issue was a bit gory, but, as is usual in Warren presentations, the gore was carefully and tastefully handled.

It seems that other horror magazines on the market have had only one goal... to satisfy their reader's desire for blood, gore, sex and violence. But we Warren readers expect quality art and story and we get it!

The reappearance of Russ Heath with his outstanding rendition of "Shadow of the Axe" was surprising. But then Warren is full of surprises!

The Budd Lewis/Joaquin Blazquez "Pit in the Living Room Floor" was heart-stopping... filled with movement, over exposed-effects, blinding and whirling action which left me dizzy for a long while.

I turned next to the Warren Awards... the only disappointment of the issue. As a Corben fan, I was greatly surprised to find his name missing. No award for Corben? A crime! True, there was a noticeable lack of Corben material and I for one have missed it greatly. More Corben work.

Rich Corben's work is terrific... phenomenal... the best.

I'd like to see more of it...



PETER REYNOLDS
Chelmsford, Mass.

Rich has been very busy recently on his own projects, PETE. One of them is a book called "Bloodstar" adapted from a story by Robert E. Howard. This full-length hard-cover book will be available through Captain Company soon.

But that doesn't mean that Rich has forgotten Warren entirely.

A ten-page Corben story called "Within You, Without You," written by Bruce Jones is due to appear in EERIE #77. A new color tale, "In Deep" by Bruce is scheduled for CREEPY #83. And the long lost color story "Bower," by Jan Strnad and Rich is scheduled for VAMPIRELLA #54!

opinions? write...

**DEAR UNCLE
CREEPY**

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BRANNIGAN'S DEAD. HE PASSED AWAY QUIETLY IN HIS SLEEP TWO DAYS AGO. *AGE*. IT FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.



BRANNIGAN WAS THE LAST. LYNCH. SLATTERY. BRADY. THEY WERE THE FOOLISH ONES. FOOLISH ... CARELESS ... OR BOTH. DEATH CLAIMED THEIR SOULS EARLY.



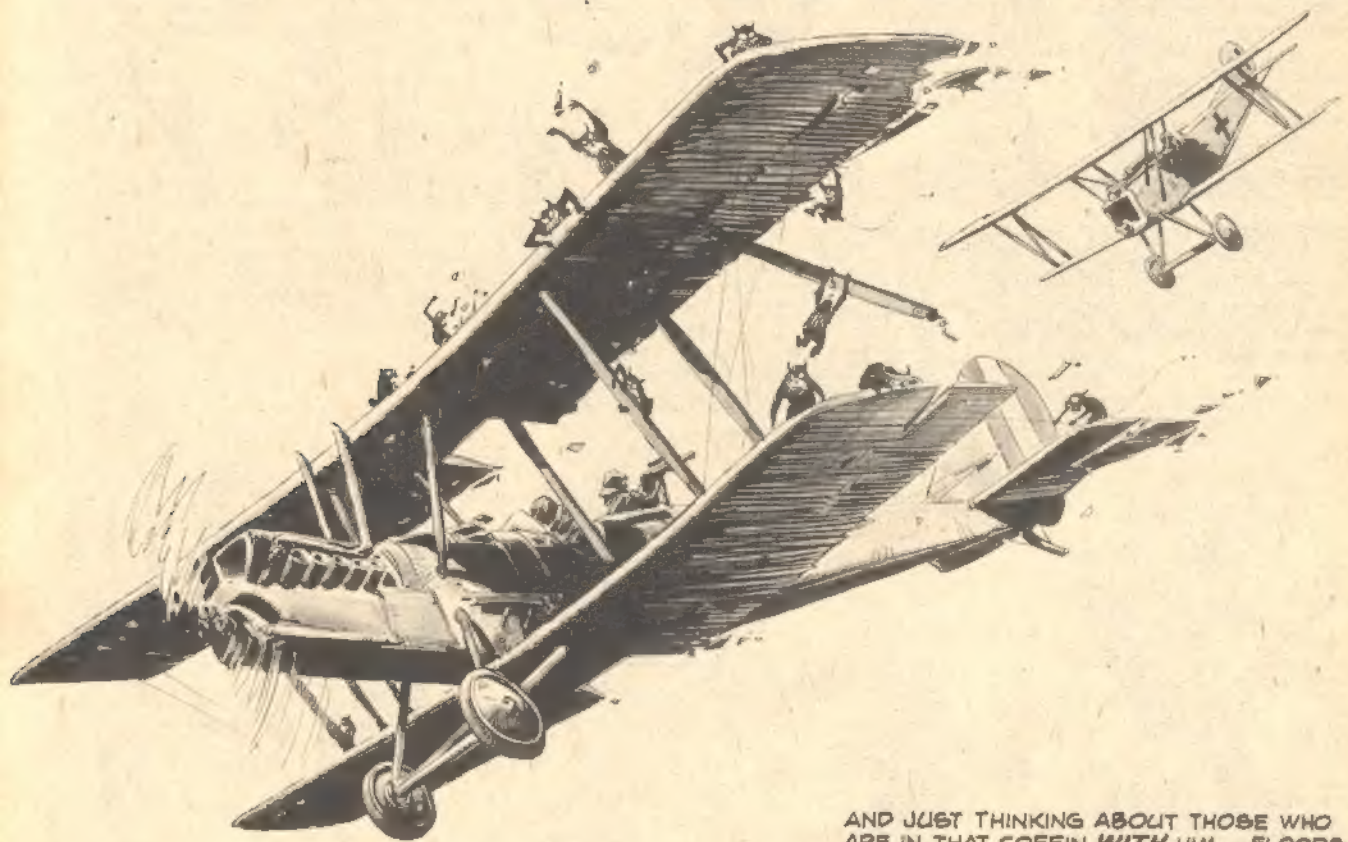
BUT BRANNIGAN...! BRANNIGAN AND ME **MADE IT!** WE SURVIVED THAT GREAT WAR... AND ALL THE HORRORS THAT WENT *WITH IT!*

BUT EVEN THE SURVIVORS DON'T SURVIVE **FOREVER.** AND NOW BRANNIGAN LIES QUIETLY IN HIS GRAVE.



BUT I KNOW, THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HE ISN'T DOWN THERE **ALONE!**

Brannigan's Gremmlins



AND JUST THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE IN THAT COFFIN *WITH HIM*... FLOODS MY MIND WITH IMAGES OF THE **PAST**...

...VISIONS OF BRANNIGAN, ME, AND OUR TINY "**FRIENDS**," DOMINATING THE SKIES IN THAT **WAR TO END ALL WARS!**

I WAS BUT A **BABE**
IN THOSE FINAL DAYS OF
THE WAR. EIGHTEEN. NEWLY
COMMISSIONED. AND GREENER
THAN A MOSS-COVERED
LIME.



WHEN I GOT TO VERDUN, THERE
WASN'T MUCH **LEFT** OF THE ONCE-
GLORIOUS RFC SQUADRON TO
WHICH I HAD BEEN ASSIGNED.



ALL TOLLED, THERE
WERE **FOUR** WAR-
WEARY PILOTS, **ONE**
QUARTERMASTER WHO
KEPT THEM HIGH WHEN
THEY WEREN'T IN
THEIR CHICKEN COOPS
... AND AN OVER-
WORKED BUT MUCH-
APPRECIATED FRENCH
MECHANIC.



UP UNTIL THAT MORNING THERE
HAD BEEN A **FIFTH** PILOT, WHO
WAS ON ORDERS TO RETURN HOME
THAT SAME DAY. I WAS TO BE HIS
REPLACEMENT.



A GERMAN RUMPLER **SHOT** HIM
DOWN TWO MILES BEYOND THE
ALLIED LINES.

THE SQUADRON'S LOSS MADE
MY WELCOME **COOL**. I WAS
FEELING UNWANTED, UNLOVED
AND UNNEEDED UNTIL
BRANNIGAN SHATTERED THE
SILENT MOMENT OF MOURNING
WITH A THUNDERING **TOAST**.

TO **TOMMY**
BOYLE! ONE
HELLAVA PILOT!
MAY HIS
REPLACEMENT
BE AS BRAVE
AS HE!

HEAR!



WITH THOSE WORDS OUR
COMRADERIE... OUR FRIENDSHIP...
OUR RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER
WAS SEALED UNTO THE GRAVE.



FOR THE FIRST TIME, I KNEW HOW
D'ARTAGUN MUST HAVE FELT
WHEN HE WAS SWORN IN AS A
MUSKETEER!

I FOUND OUT LATER THAT THERE WASN'T MUCH NEED FOR **FIVE** PILOTS WHEN OUR ENTIRE SQUADRON CONSISTED OF **TWO** ANCIENT SOPWITH CAMELS, ONE NIEUPORT WHOSE ENGINE HAD ONCE POWERED A BOCHE VT BOAT, AND BRANNIGAN'S WELL-WORN BRISTOL FIGHTER.



SO I FLEW IN BRANNIGAN'S TWIN-SEATER ON MY FIRST COMBAT OUTING... BACKING HIM UP AS **TAIL-GUNNER**.



THE SQUADRON'S **PRIMARY** MISSION WAS TO COVER OUR GROUND FORCES... AND **STRAFE** THE HUNS BACK INTO GERMANY.

I LEARNED QUICKLY, HOWEVER, THAT HENNIE RARELY ALLOWED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE OUR MISSION **UNMOLESTED**.



AFTER FOUR YEARS OF BATTLE, GERMANY'S AIR FORCE SEEMED AS **FRESH...AS NEW** AS IF THEY HAD ENTERED THE WAR ONLY YESTERDAY. YET, THEY HAD ANOTHER EDGE BESIDES FASTER, SLEEKER EQUIPMENT...

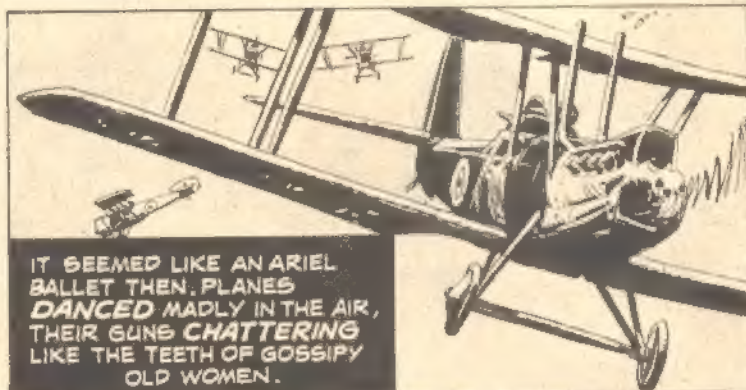


...**EXPERIENCE!**

YET, AS EXPERIENCED AS THE HUNG WERE, THEY PROVED **NO MATCH** FOR THE ARIEL ARTISTRY OF BRANNIGAN, SLATTERY, LYNCH AND BRADY.



SLATTERY AND LYNCH EACH **SLICED** THEMSELVES AN OPPONENT OUT OF THE ENEMY FORMATION, WHILE BRADY AND BRANNIGAN TOOK ME WITH THEM... **STRAIGHT INTO HELL!**



IT SEEMED LIKE AN ARIEL BALLET THEN. PLANES **DANCED** MADLY IN THE AIR, THEIR GUNS **CHATTERING** LIKE THE TEETH OF GOSSIPY OLD WOMEN.



I COULDN'T EVEN CLICK THE SAFETY OFF MY LEWIS GUN BEFORE BRANNIGAN'S 30 MILLIMETER BEGAN **BARKING** LIKE A RABID DOG...

... AND BRADY SCREAMED A PATH STRAIGHT **THROUGH** THE HENNIE FORMATION, **OBLIVIOUS** TO THE BULLETS RIPPING THE AIR AROUND HIM.

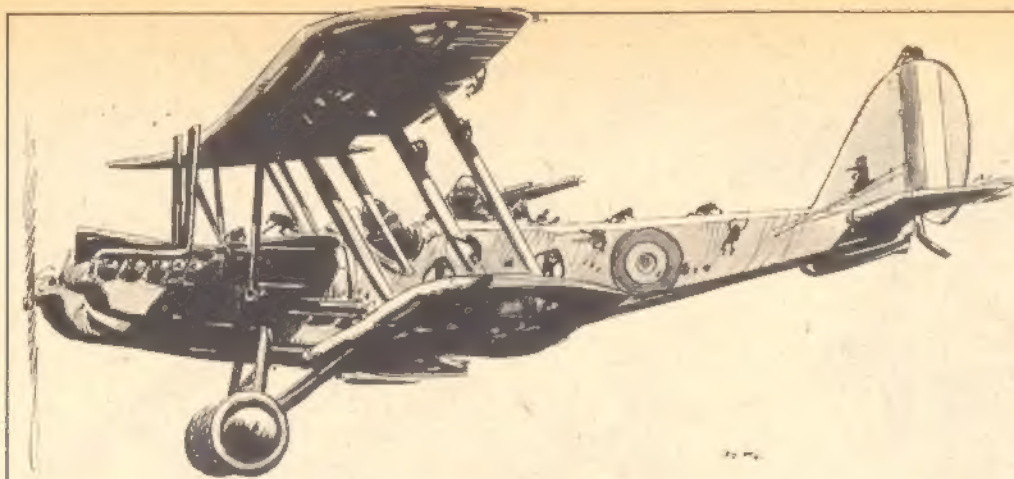
THE WORLD WAS **SPINNING** MADLY, INSANELY WHEN MY NUMBED FINGERS FINALLY FOUND THE **TRIGGER** OF MY NEGLECTED WEAPON.



BY THEN... THE WORLD SEEMED TO **EXPLODE** AROUND ME, AS **THREE** RUMPLERS BURST INTO A **FIERY** DEATH...



... AND I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, OF SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN!



LITTLE CREATURES. AT FIRST A **FEW**... THEN **DOZENS** OF THEM APPEARED FROM NOWHERE ... PULLING THEMSELVES OUT OF BULLET HOLES, EMERGING FROM UNDER SEATS, CLAWING UP MY LEG AND GLIDING DOWN THE STRUTS OF OUR AEROPLANE!

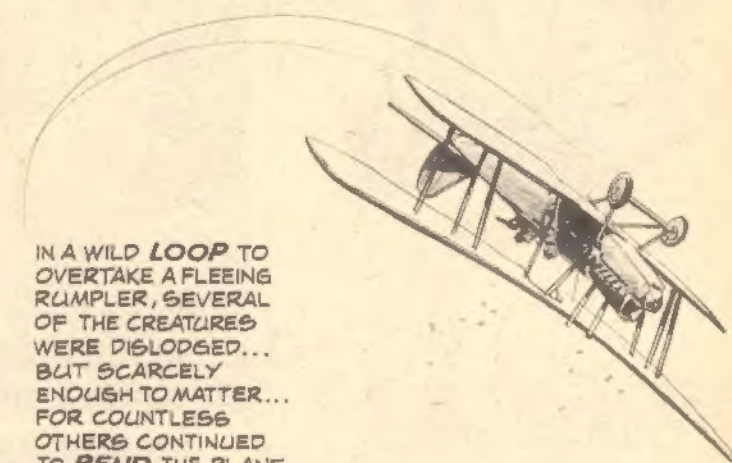


BLACK DEVILS. FOR WANT OF A BETTER TERM... **HIDEOUS**, **SINISTER** LOOKING, **MINIATURE DEMONS**, WHO BEGAN... **OBLIVIOUS** TO BRANNIGAN OR MYSELF... TO LITERALLY **TEAR OUR CRAFT APART!**

AND WORST OF ALL, BRANNIGAN SEEMED **OBLIVIOUS TO THEM!** INTENT ON THE BATTLE, HIS GUN HAMMERED ENDLESSLY AS THE **GNOME** BEINGS WREAKED THEIR DESTRUCTION... ALL THE WHILE, ENEMY FIRE **STRAFING** US INCESTANTLY!



IN A WILD **LOOP** TO OVERTAKE A FLEEING RUMPLER, SEVERAL OF THE CREATURES WERE DISLODGED... BUT SCARCELY ENOUGH TO MATTER... FOR COUNTLESS OTHERS CONTINUED TO **REND** THE PLANE. **TIRELESSLY...**



...I TRIED TO FLING **AWAY** THOSE CREATURES WITHIN MY REACH, WHILE I COULD ONLY WATCH IN **HORROR** THOSE WHICH WERE **NOT!**



AND THEN, TO MY UTTER TERROR, **MORE** OF THE THINGS BEGAN EMERGING. **MURDEROUS** LITTLE DEVILS WITH **FANGS**, **CLAWS**, AND EVIL **RED EYES!**

I KNEW WE WERE **DOOMED**, AND STANDING KNEE-DEEP IN **HELL!**

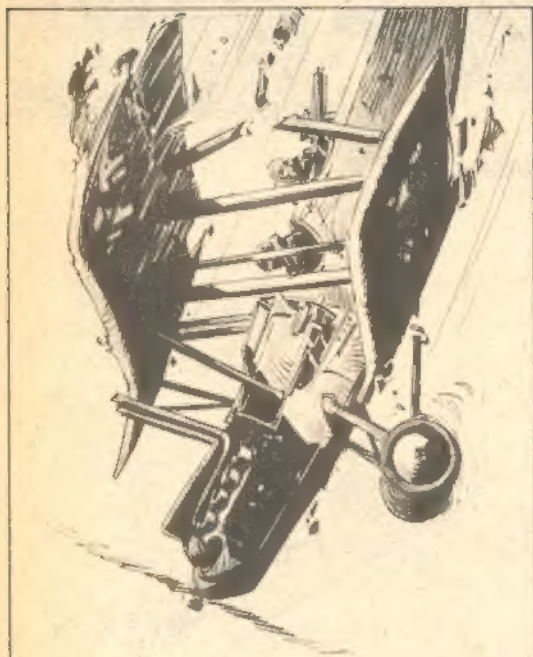


I WAS FROZEN IN **FEAR** AS THE DEVILS CLAMMORED ABOUT ME, **CLAWING** FURIOUSLY, **SCAMPERING** WILDLY TO REACH THE EBON DEMONS WHO HAD EMERGED BEFORE. OUT OF THE CORNER OF ONE EYE, I SAW BRANNIGAN **SWAT** SEVERAL OF THE MONSTROBITES OFF HIS GUNBOATS... THEN CONTINUE, AS IF THEY HAD NEVER BEEN THERE, TO BLAST **MERCLESSLY** AT THE BOCHE.

SUDDENLY, OFF TO ANOTHER SIDE, I SAW... **FELT** MOVEMENT, A HENNIE RUMPLER, GUNS **BLAZING** STRAIGHT FOR US...



...AND I REALIZED I HAD BEEN LAX. MY OWN GUNS HAD BEEN **IDLE** AS I WATCHED THE MAD **HALLUCINATION** ABOUT ME!



THE GERMAN FLYER'S GUNS DRONED **DEAFENINGLY**. A VOLLEY CHEWED THROUGH OUR SHIP... ENDING WITH A BITING **PAIN** IN MY SHOULDER.



AS HE SCREECHED OVER AND PAST US, I RIDDLED HIS **UNDERBELLY** AND **SCREAMED** JOYOUSLY AS HIS FUEL LINES **BURST** INTO **FLAME**!



THE RUMPLER EXPLODED **THUNDEROUSLY**, ALMOST KNOCKING OUR BRISTOL OUT OF THE AIR.



AS I WATCHED WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE ENEMY CRAFT FLOAT LIKE SO MANY CINDERS OUT OF THE SKY, I COULD HAVE **SWORN** THAT I SAW SEVERAL OF THE TINY **MONSTROBITES** AMIDST THE DEBRIS...!

MY SHOULDER AND MY FLIGHT JACKET WERE DRENCHED IN BLOOD. MY SENSES WHIRLED DIZZILY. VAGUELY, I SENSED AN EXPLOSION AHEAD OF US... AND I KNEW BRANNIGAN HAD SMILED HIS ROCKE.



YET, ALL ABOUT ME, I BECAME AWARE OF ANOTHER BATTLE. A SILENT, DREAM-LIKE WAR... WHITE DEMONS AGAINST NIGHTSHADE DEVILS.



THE PRIZE OUR BRISTOL.

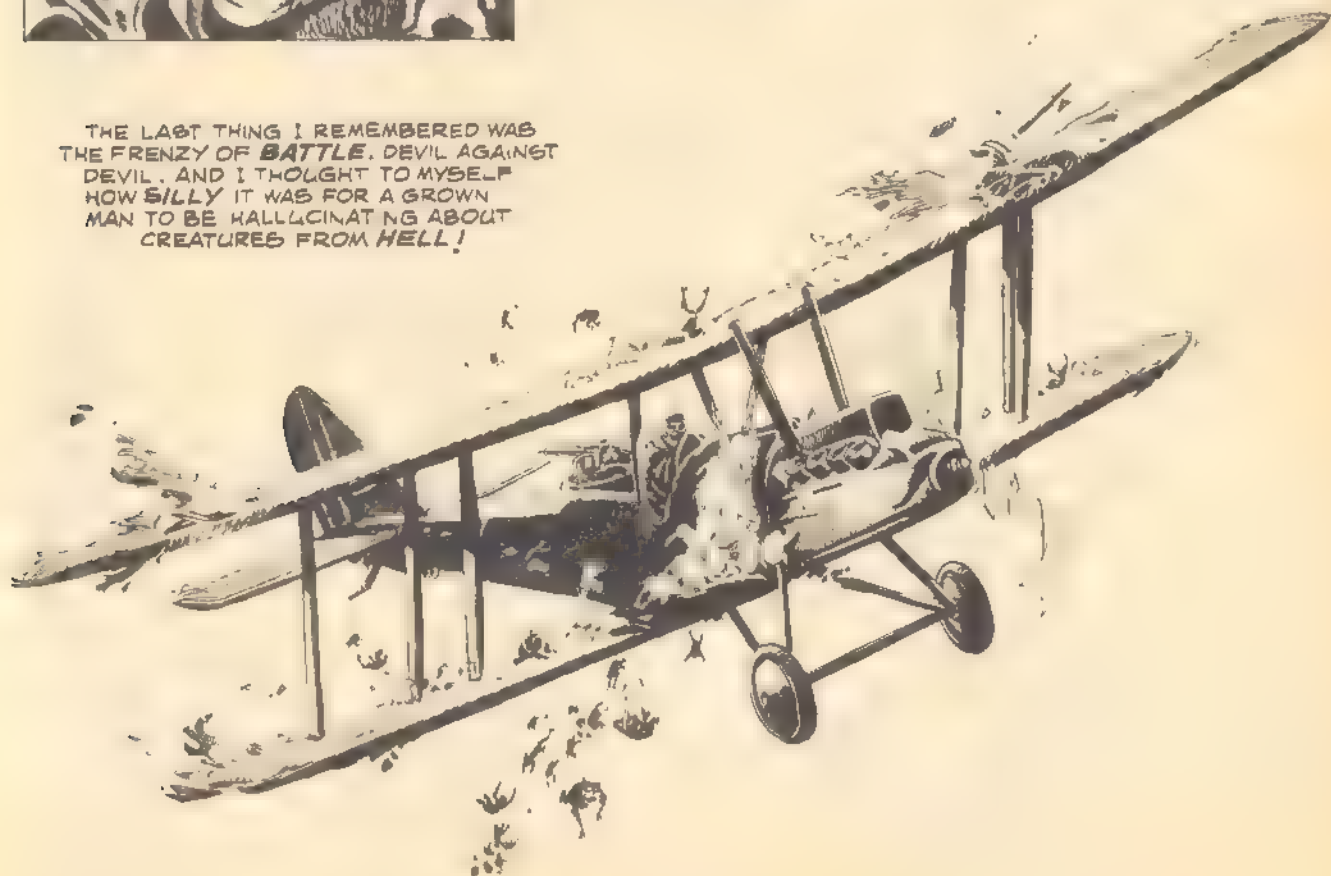
THROUGH A HAZE, I SAW BRANNIGAN TURN TO ME. HE SAW THAT I WAS SHOT. HURT. HE MUST HAVE SEEN, TOO, THAT IT WAS NOT A SERIOUS WOUND, FOR HE SMILED. A KNOWING, FATHERLY SMILE, AS IF IN RECOGNITION FOR A JOB WELL-DONE.

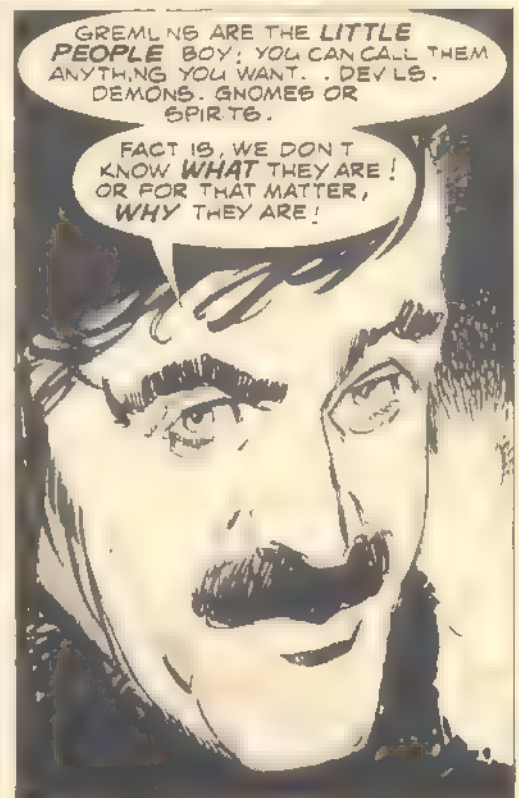
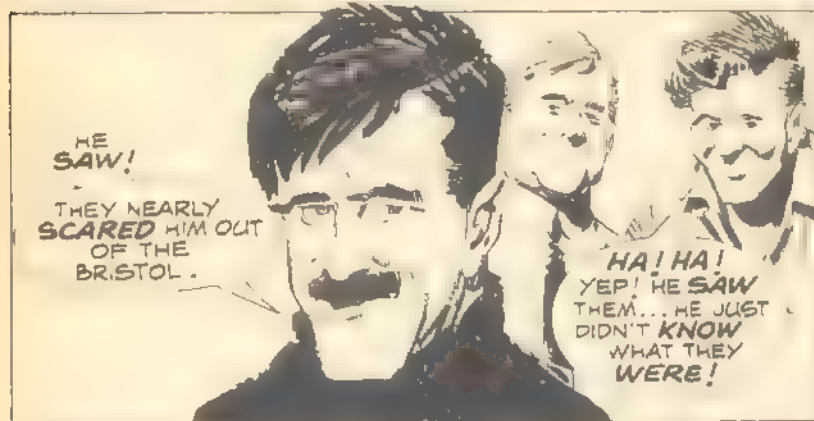
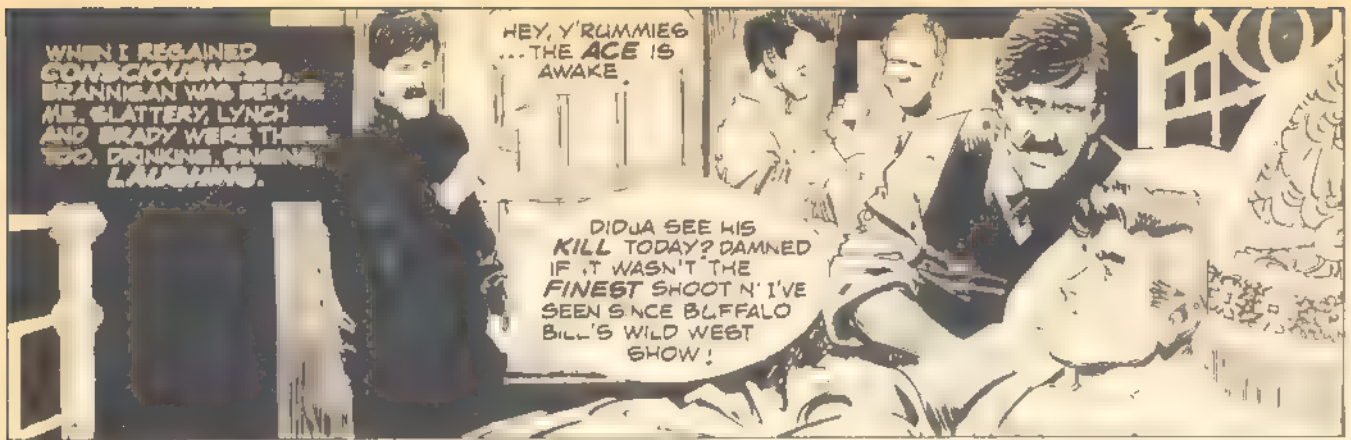


WE MUST HAVE HEADED HOME THEN. I CANNOT REMEMBER. FOR THE PAIN FROM MY "NOT-TOO-SERIOUS" WOUND, ENGULFED ME IN A DARK STUPOR.



THE LAST THING I REMEMBERED WAS THE FRENZY OF BATTLE. DEVIL AGAINST DEVIL. AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF HOW SILLY IT WAS FOR A GROWN MAN TO BE HALLUCINATING ABOUT CREATURES FROM HELL!



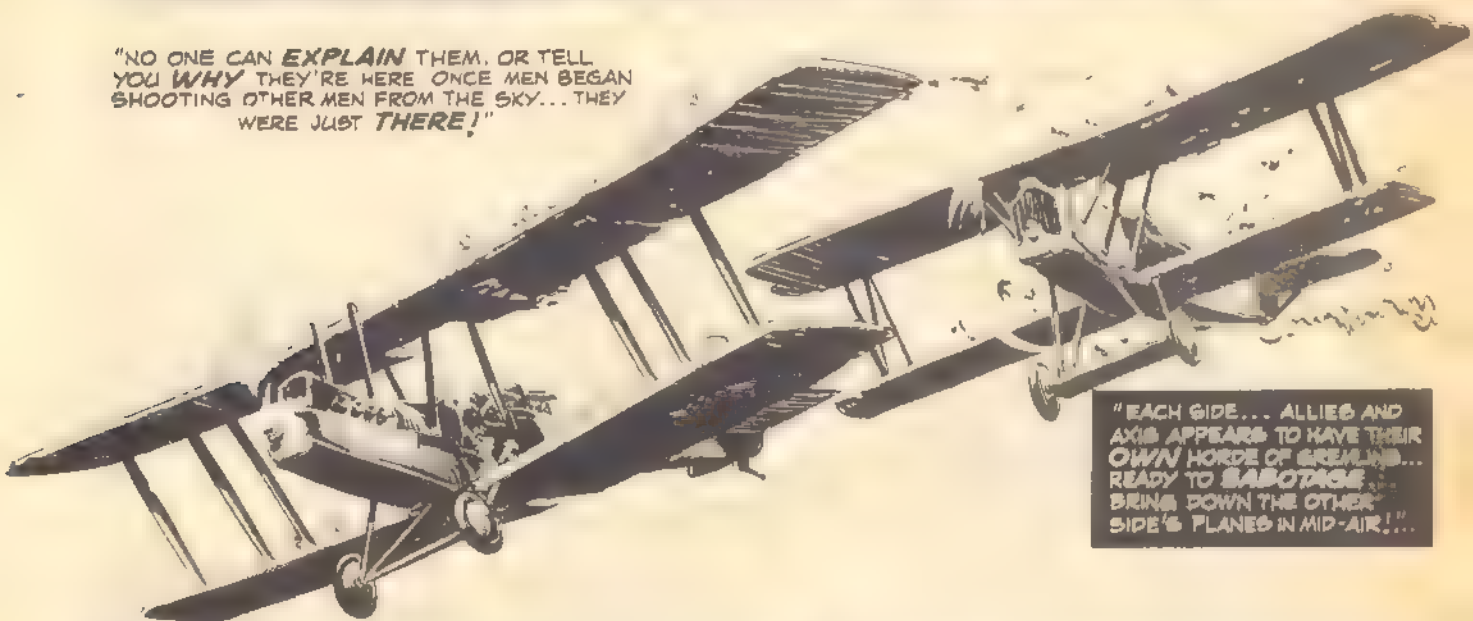


"ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT THEY **EXIST**. AND A LOT OF PILOTS DON'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE **THAT**!"

"THEY ARE THE AIRMAN'S **SCOURGE**... THE FLYER'S **BOON**. THEY'LL TEAR YOUR PLANE INTO CONFETTI...OR THEY'LL HOLD IT **TOGETHER** LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO REACH HOME AND SAFETY!"



"NO ONE CAN **EXPLAIN** THEM, OR TELL YOU **WHY** THEY'RE HERE. ONCE MEN BEGAN SHOOTING OTHER MEN FROM THE SKY... THEY WERE JUST **THERE**!"

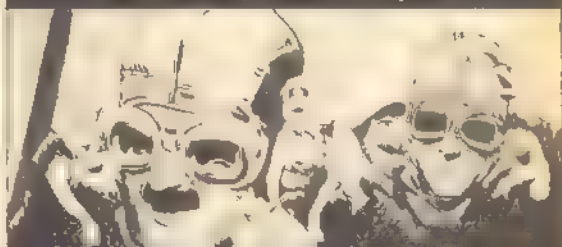


"EACH SIDE... ALLIES AND AXIS APPEARS TO HAVE THEIR OWN HORDE OF GREMLINS... READY TO **SABOTAGE** BRING DOWN THE OTHER SIDE'S PLANES IN MID-AIR!"

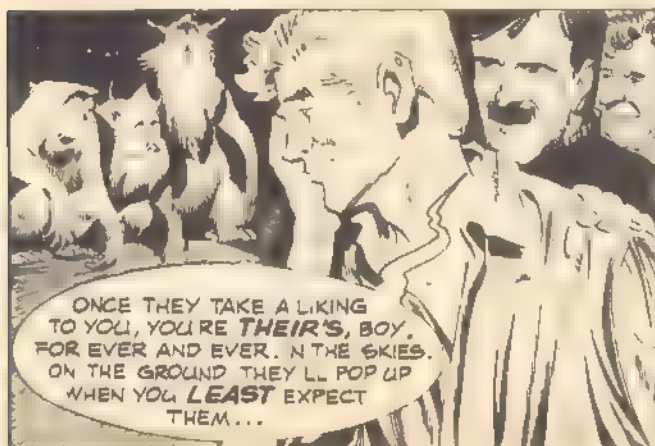
"THERE'S **GOOD** GREMLINS, AND **BAD** GREMLINS. BOTH JUST START CRAWLING OUT OF YOUR SHIP'S WOODWORK!"
"WHEN THE **BAD** GREMLINS GET YOU, YOUR ONLY HOPE IS TO KEEP ON FIGHTING... AND TAKE AS MANY OF YOUR ENEMY WITH YOU, AS YOU CAN!"



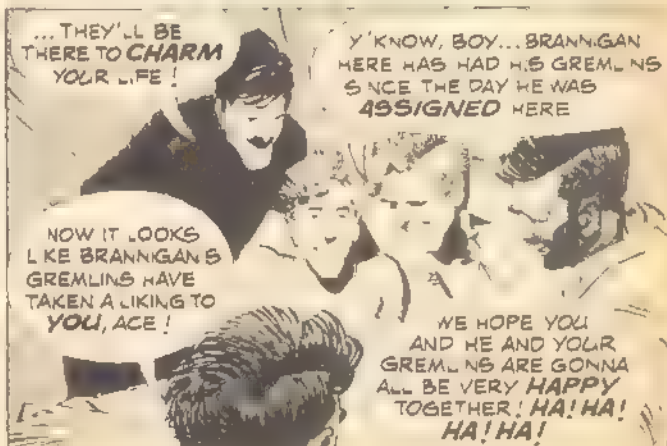
"AND WHEN THE **GOOD** GREMLINS TAKE A **LIKING** TO YOU... WELL, THERE'S **JUST NO** GETTING RID OF THEM!"



"THEY'LL FOLLOW YOU INTO THE SKIES... AND LIKE AN OWEN OF GOOD LUCK, THERE'S **NOTHING** THAT CAN SHOOT YOU DOWN SHORT OF THE FINGER OF GOD... AND THEN, EVEN **HE** WILL HAVE TO GET BY YOUR **GREMLINS**!"



ONCE THEY TAKE A **LIKING** TO YOU, YOU'RE **THEIR'S**, BOY. FOR EVER AND EVER. IN THE SKIES. ON THE GROUND THEY'LL POP UP WHEN YOU **LEAST** EXPECT THEM...



...THEY'LL BE THERE TO **CHARM** YOUR LIFE!

Y'KNOW, BOY... BRANNIGAN HERE HAS HAD HIS GREMLINS SINCE THE DAY HE WAS **ASSIGNED** HERE

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE BRANNIGAN'S GREMLINS HAVE TAKEN A **LIKING** TO YOU, ACE!

WE HOPE YOU AND HE AND YOUR GREMLINS ARE GONNA ALL BE VERY **HAPPY** TOGETHER! HA! HA! HA! HA!

I NEVER REALLY **KNEW** IF BRADY, SLATTERY AND LYNCH TRULY **BELIEVED** IN BRANNIGAN'S GREMLINS.



THEY JOKED ABOUT IT, TREATED THE SUBJECT LIGHTLY. YET, THAT'S THE KIND OF MEN THEY WERE. FUN-LOVING. JOVIAL. I'M SURE THEY **MUST** HAVE SEEN THE GREMLINS AT LEAST **ONCE**.

YET... EACH OF THEM WERE **KILLED!** BRADY. SLATTERY. LYNCH. EACH WAS DOWNED BY AN **ENEMY FLYER!**

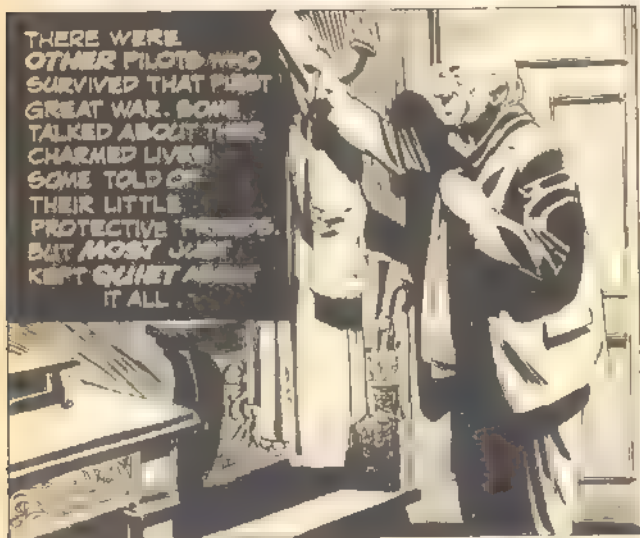


ONLY BRANNIGAN AND **MYSELF** LIVED TO SEE THE END OF THE "WAR TO END ALL WARS!" ONLY **WE** HAD THE "CHARMED" LIVES.

ONLY **WE** HAD OUR OWN BELOVED **GREMLINS** EVER WITH US! WHEN WE RETURNED HOME, WE WOULD EVERY NOW AND THEN, CATCH A **GLIMPSE** OF A TINY HEAD STICKING OUT OF A COOKIE JAR... DASHING QUICKLY BEHIND A BOOKCASE OR A **GRANDFATHER** CLOCK.



THERE WERE **OTHER** PILOTS WHO SURVIVED THAT FIRST GREAT WAR. SOME TALKED ABOUT THEIR **CHARMED** LIVES. SOME TOLD OF THEIR LITTLE **PROTECTIVE** FRIENDS. BUT **MOST** JUST KEPT **QUIET** ABOUT IT ALL.



YEARS LATER THERE WAS **ANOTHER** WAR. AGAIN, "THE WAR TO END ALL WARS!" AGAIN... **THE GREAT WAR** ... CHAPTER TWO!



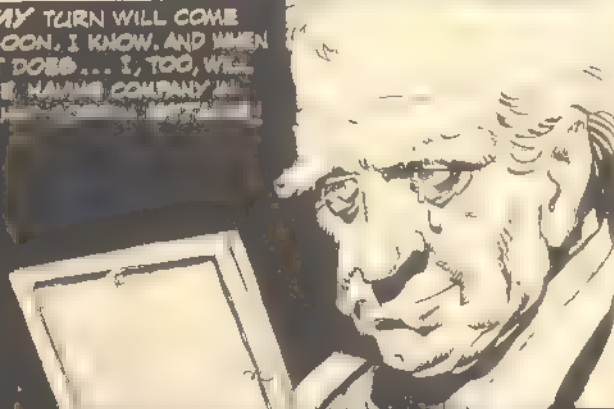
THEN, MORE PLANES... BOTH OURS AND THE ENEMIES WERE **DOWNED**. SOMETIMES BY **MEN**. SOMETIMES BY THE **LITTLE** FOLKS WHOSE SKIES HAD BEEN **INVADED!**

THERE WAS **MORE** TALK OF GREMLINS THEN. SOME **BELAYED**. SOME **DIDN'T**. I **GUESS** IT DIDN'T REALLY **MATTER** AT ALL!



FOR AT LEAST **TWO** OF US KNEW THE TRUTH. BRANNIGAN AND ME. AND NOW, BRANNIGAN'S **LITTLE** PEOPLE WERE DOWN IN THAT GRAVE **WITH HIM**. I SUSPECT, **HAPPY** AT BEING THERE!

MY TURN WILL COME SOON. I KNOW. AND WHEN IT DOES... I, TOO, WILL BE **HAVING** COMPANY WITH **THEM**.



AND I'LL BE **THANKING** THEM FOR A LONG, **HAPPY**, **CHARMED** LIFE!

THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

Here are some depressing facts for you to think about before you go back to reading your overpriced, underwritten Warren magazine.

When National Comics publisher and president Carmine Infantino was abruptly dismissed earlier this year, the corporate bigwigs at Warner Communications, the conglomerate which owns National, decided it needed new blood. After all, National was in its worst sales slump in many years and prospects were not good for immediate improvement.

Their chosen one for new blood as president, the key moneymen position? None other than Sol Harrison.

For those of you unfamiliar with ancient comic-book history, Harrison has literally been around since the beginning of time, having worked on the earliest comic books ever published. As far as anyone can tell, his first move after taking over as president was to telephone key National personnel and assure them that things would continue to be the same under his reign.

Over at Marvel Comics, Mr. One-Note himself, publisher Stan Lee, who has been with Marvel since 1939, went looking for a new editor after the occasionally talented Marv Wolfman's term ended. Mr. One-Note, who hasn't generated an original idea since he hit upon his now clichéd "superhero-with-problems" concept in 1961, decided he needed someone new to help Marvel out of its sales and quality decline.

His choice for new boy wonder at the misnamed "House of Ideas" Roy Thom-

as. For those of you unfamiliar with recent comic-book history, Thomas served a totally forgettable stint as editor from 1972 to 1974, has spent the better portion of the last five years adapting other writers' stories and once revealed that the only thing he was ever interested in writing was funny books.

Things being what they are, however, Thomas changed his mind and Mr. One-Note was left without an editor again. His second choice for new Marvel Messiah? Gerry Conway.

For those of you unfamiliar with talentless comic-book writers, the young Mr. Conway has made a career of bouncing back and forth between National and Marvel, impressing no one anywhere.

So much for new blood at Marvel. **B**ill DuBay's resignation at Warren has left what many industry heavies believe is a rather large gap in the always shoestring-sized Warren organization. I am not privy to Warren corporate secrets despite this column, but, as of the first week of March, no editor had yet been chosen. The betting is, however, that the eventual successor to DuBay will be pulled from the already thin ranks of the comic-book business.

Now believe me, I'm all for tradition and recycling the same old troops when it serves a purpose and when an industry can afford it. But the comic-book business is presently suffering through one hell of a sales and creative nosedive.

Sales haven't been as poor since Estes Kefauver and his Senatorial good ole boys were conducting their nationally televised hearing into alleged links between comics and crime back in the 1950s.

Creatively, the comic books, never quite the cultural font some would have us believe, are as stagnant as ever. It looks like we may be in for another round of 1940s superheroes or, worse still, another round of 1950s B.E.M.s from every corner of the galaxy. And it's hardly uplifting when the two most acclaimed titles of the year are Warren's *THE SPIRIT* and Marvel's *HOWARD THE DUCK*. That one is merely a series of reprints from the 1940s and the other is a badly updated and inane version of Donald Duck does not bode well for the creative business.

Should you need some very hard facts and figures to convince you about the very hard times the comic-book industry has fallen upon of late, let me offer this little depressing tidbit of mathematics. According to the best calculations I could compile from Postal Service records, the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) notices and a series of conversations with many of the nation's leading independent magazine distributors, comic-book sales are down about 30 per cent during the last six-to-12 months. And they're getting worse.

"My records show comic sales down about 50 per cent, one half, since last

July," said an executive of the nation's leading independent distributor of comic books.

His gloomy assessment of the comic-book business is shared by most of the independent distributors. They're unhappy with the comic-book business already—they don't make much money even when comics are selling. Most of them plainly indicate they're not about to keep concentrating on comic books if sales continue to drop.

And, dear fans, without the independent distributors, there are no comic books. None. Good-bye. Pack it in and blow away.

There are, of course, any number of reasons for the comic-book sales decline. The creative people aren't free to produce material in tune with the times, the distribution channels are stacked against the successful merchandising of comic books, and the economy is still being fickle with any low-priced high volume item like comics.

More than anything, however, the decline in sales must be laid to the decline in quality of the books. Comic magazines simply aren't as well written and drawn as they have been. And that's not saying much—they were never all that good to begin with. What to do?

Short of junking the whole system and firing nine of every 10 people who purport to write and draw and edit comics as a profession—probably the most logical solution, by the way—not a whole lot.

But some things can be done, and, as this column progresses, I'll be presenting some ideas. I'll also be discussing some of comics' weakest points, their most blatant shortcomings and I'll also be feeding you some information about the business most comic moguls would prefer you wouldn't know.

James Warren, the publisher and all-around big kahuna of Warren Publishing, has promised that this column will be an uncensored, open forum, so his operations will be getting the same scrutiny as Marvel or National or Gold Key or Charlton.

More than anything, however, this column should be a forum for you. The average reader who just happens to pick up the tab and, in the long run, makes the final decisions.

So here's your chance to get involved with the business. Tell me what's on your mind and I'll do my best to convey it here along with everything else. The address is Joe Brancatelli, The Comic Books, c/o Warren Publishing Co., 145 East 32nd Street, New York, New York 10016.

Joe Brancatelli, a long-time comic-book and comic art fan and reader, is a reporter and editor of Fairchild Publications, the nation's largest chain of business publications. He has also contributed to many of the nation's leading magazines and newspapers and wrote the comic book entries for the recently-published WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMICS. His first book, SAD SONGS AND BAR TALK, a collection of his essays about street life in New York City, will be published next year.

MY TALE IS **NOT** UNCOMMON DOUBT-
LESS. IT IS ONE YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE
...IN VARIOUS FORMS WITH UNFLAWED
PREDICTABILITY.

IT SPEAKS OF **LIFE** AND **DEATH**,
OF **HATE** AND **VENGEANCE** AND
MAN'S INHUMANITY TO THOSE HE LOVES
MOST.

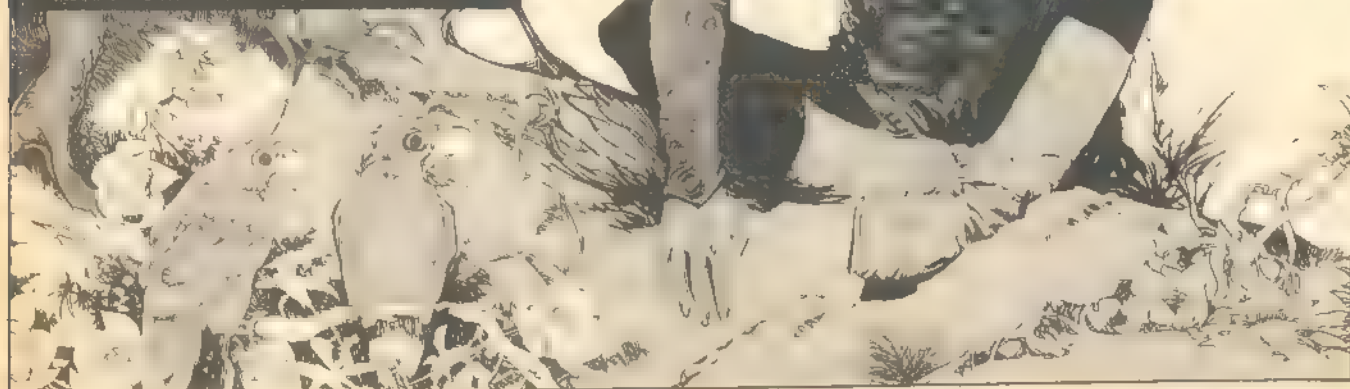
I HAVE **LIVED** MY TALE AGAIN AND
AGAIN, IN REPEATED NARRATION TO THE
SQUIRRELS, THE RABBITS AND THE FOR-
EST BIRDS.



THEY ARE ALL THAT **REMAIN**,
LENDING COURTEOUS EAR TO A
BROKEN, SADDENED, SHADOW OF
A MAN.

WINGS OF VENGEANCE!

THE BIRDS LISTEN BEST. THEY SEEM FAS-
CINATED AT EACH NEW TELLING OF MY STORY.
FOR THEY, PEACEABLE, CHARMFUL, MOST BEAU-
TIFUL AND INNOCENT OF NATURE'S CREATIONS,
CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY MEN, WITH ALL
THEIR ABILITY, ALL THEIR INTELLIGENCE, ALWAYS
RESORT TO MALEVOLENT **SAVAGERY**.



MY TALE IS A NIGHTMARE, HAUNTING DARK,
SOME NIGHTS, SHADOWING SIGHTLESS DARK.
I RELATE IT OVER AND OVER BECAUSE I CANNOT
FORGET. I CANNOT ESCAPE THE DARK,
OBSESSIVE PAST.

I TELL MY WOE TO THE FOREST'S CREATURES FOR TO
THEM ALONE AM I ALLOWED TO SPEAK I HAVE NOT
CONVERSED WITH A **MAN** SINCE I WAS BANISHED FROM
MY FATHER'S FEIFDOM, ERE SO LONG AGO.

AND YET, IF PUNISHMENT FOR MY CRIME
WERE SIMPLE **BANISHMENT**, MY TUM-
ULTUOUS MEMORIES MIGHT **QUELL** AND
QUIET AT A SINGLING FOREST BROOK.

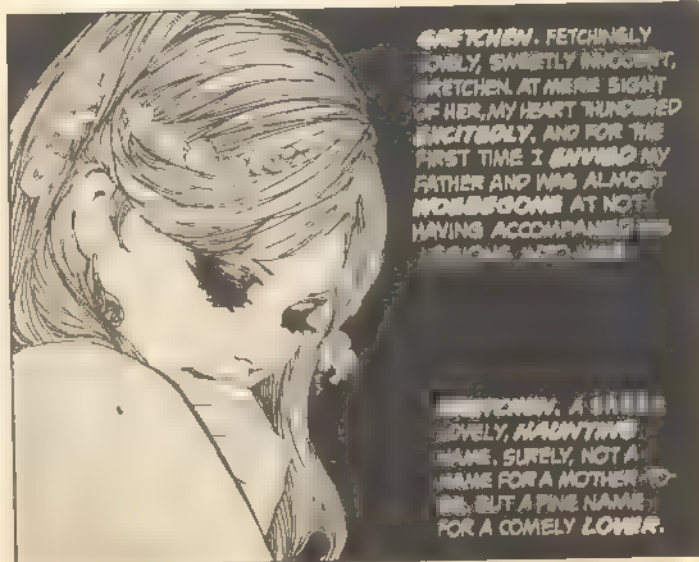
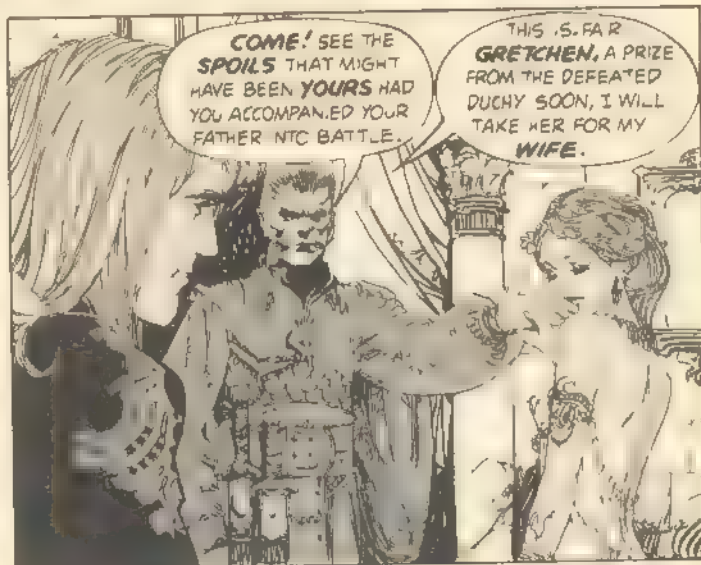
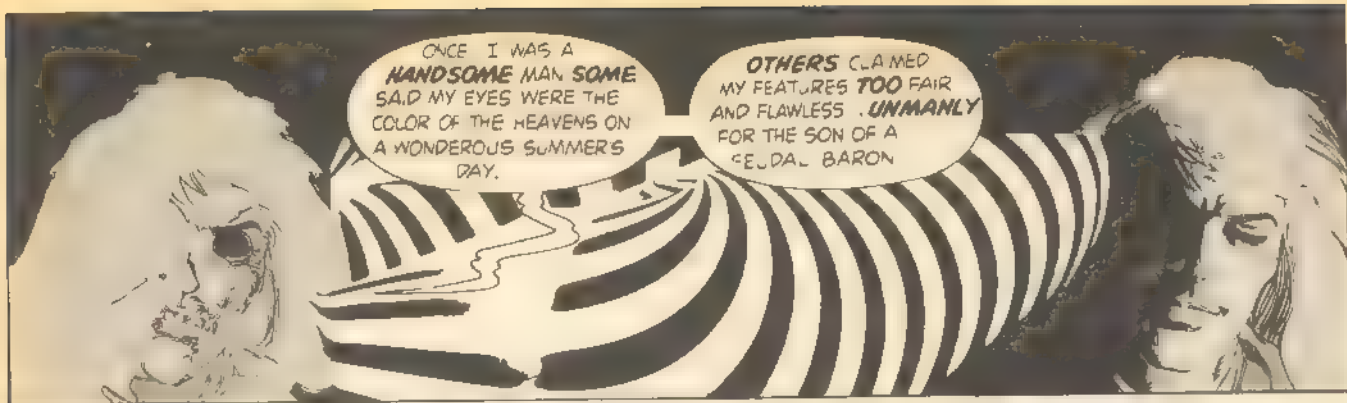
INSTEAD, MY GUILT RAGES LIKE A THUN-
DEROUS STORM. AND I AM MADE CRUEL-
LY BENEFIT IN THE DEATH OF ONE SO
INNOCENT AND FAIR.

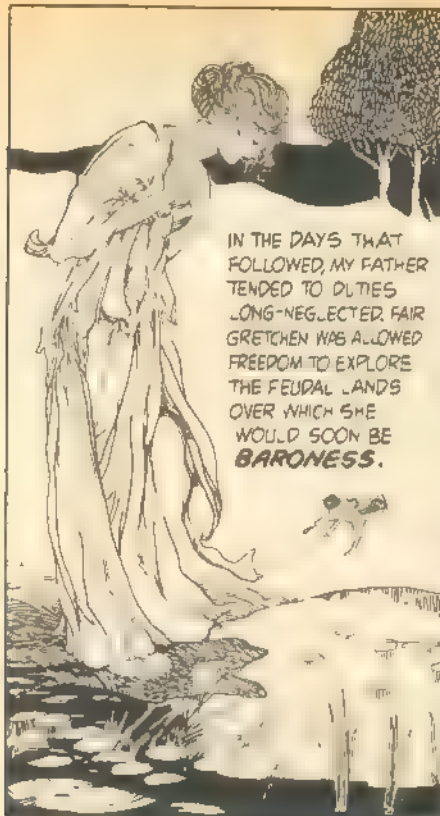
YOU ASK HOW
THE FATES **ACCURSED**
ME SO, FRIEND
SPARROW?

LISTEN THEN
AND I WILL TELL
YOU **ALL**...OF A
LOVE UNBLEMISHED
AND OF BETRAYAL
MOST FOUL.

BUT FORGIVE
ME IF I DO NOT
FINISH MY
TALE, LITTLE
FRIENDS.

...FOR OFTEN THE
SIGHT OF HER...MY
LOVE MOST TRUE, TREAD-
ING SOFTLY THROUGH THE
SHADOWS OF MY DREAMS,
IS MORE THAN I CAN
BEAR.





IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, MY FATHER TENDED TO DUTIES LONG-NEGLECTED. FAIR GRETCHEN WAS ALLOWED FREEDOM TO EXPLORE THE FEUDAL LANDS OVER WHICH SHE WOULD SOON BE **BARONESS**.

I KNEW MY FATHER **ACHED** TO TAKE GRETCHEN FOR HIS WIFE. HE HAD NOT KNOWN THE **CARESS** OF A WOMAN SINCE THE DREAD FEVER CLAIMED AN **ANOTHER**, WHILE YET I WAS A BOY.

I HAD NO WISH TO **BETRAY**... **HURT** MY BELOVED FATHER. AND YET, I COULD NOT **STOP** MYSELF FROM **PERSUADING** HIS LOVELY GRETCHEN INTO OUR SHELTERING **CEGAR** GARDEN.



TAKING CARE NOT TO BE **SEEN**, I WATCHED IN SILENT ADMIRATION AS BEAUTIFUL GRETCHEN **DANCED** IN THE WONDERFUL SPRING SUN, BLOOMING LIKE A FLOWER FAIR, WITH **HAPPINESS** AND LOVE.



I YEARNED TO **RUN** TO HER **EMBRACE** HER LIKE THE POETIC BEAUTY, AND TELL HER HOW THE STARS THE MOON AND THE HEAVENS HAD BECOME MORE RADIANT SINCE FIRST MY EYES RESTED UPON HER RESPLENDENT FORM.



YET I **RESTRAINED** MY **JURGES** AND TRIED TO **SUPPRESS** EMOTIONS MOST DARK FOR I KNEW THAT WHAT I FELT COULD **NEVER** BE.

AS I WATCHED, **HIDING** AND **ASHAMED** OF FEELINGS I COULD NOT CONTROL, I NOTICED IN GRETCHEN'S EYES A **SADNESS** THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE **SHADOWED** ONE SO **BEAUTIFUL** AND FAIR.



AWKWARDLY...BRAVELY...I **ABANDONED** MY PLACE OF COVER AND **WENT** TO HER... TO **CONSOLE** HER DOUBTLESS SORROWS.

SHE WELCOMED MY ARMS EAGERLY, AND RELATED HER **CONTEMPT** FOR THE MAN WHO HAD SLAIN HER SIRE. STOLEN HER FROM THE ONLY HOME SHE HAD KNOWN AND NOW WAS FORCING HER INTO **UNWANTED MATRIMONY**.



TO SHARE A **BED** WITH THE MAN WHO HAD **MURDERED** HER FATHER WAS DARKSOME AND TERRIBLE.

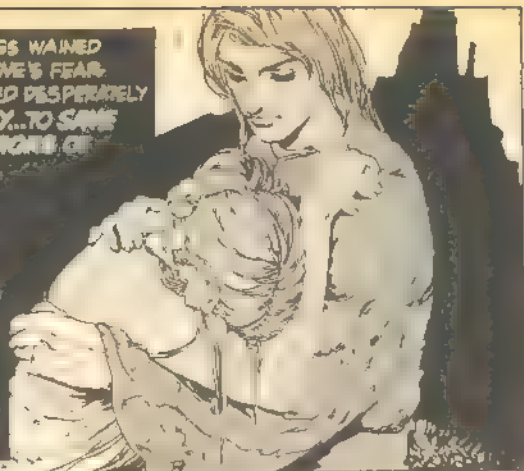
GRETCHEN TREMBLED AS SHE TOLD OF THE **HORRORS** SHE HAD ENDURED AT THE HANDS OF MY FATHER. SHE SENSED IN ME A TRUSTED **ALLY**, EVER-PRESENT WITH A SYMPATHETIC EAR.. AN UNDERSTANDING SMILE.



I DARED NOT TELL HER MY FEELINGS WERE **MORE** THAN SYMPATHY.

THE SUN'S BRIGHTNESS WAINED AS I WATCHED MY LOVE'S FEARFUL YEARS. I WANTED DESPERATELY TO STEAL HER AWAY...TO SAVE HER FROM THE HORRORS OF THE FATE.

AND YET, I WOULD NOT COMMAND TO STAND AGAINST MY SIRE. THAT, OR TRULY DID I LOVE HIM, AND WISHED NOT TO BETRAY HIM.



DELICATE GRETCHEN PRESSED SWEET LIPS TO MINE IN SIMPLE AFFECTION... APPRECIATION, FOR MY EAR.

YET, TO ME, IT WAS A NEW DAWN, BURST UPON THE LONLINESS OF NIGHT.

SUDDENLY, TO HORROR, MY FATHER SPRANG FROM THE DENSE WOODED GROVE, AT THE HEAD OF SIX ARMED WARRIORS.



SO! THE SON LUSTS FOR HIS MOTHER-TO-BE!

FATHER! NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

I CAN SEE WHAT IT IS, MY PRETTY FACED BOY! I TRUDGE TO WAR YOU CLAIM THE SPOILS



MY BETHROTHED! PLEASE! THERE IS NOTHING BETWEEN THE YOUTH AND I.

I REMAIN UNSPOILED, MY LIEGE I HAVE SAVED MYSELF FOR OUR WEDDING NIGHT.



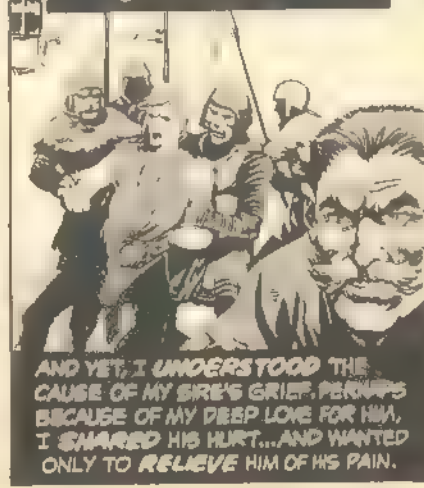
THERE WILL BE NO WEDDING FOR YOU WENCH.

TAKE THEM TO THE HEADSMAN!



FATHER! YOU CAN'T!

SEEING MY FATHER'S UNBOUNDED RAGE, I FEARED FOR POOR GRETCHEN'S LIFE. I FELT TOO, THAT MY OWN FATE WOULD NOT BE PLEASANT.



AND YET, I UNDERSTOOD THE CAUSE OF MY SIRE'S GRIEF, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF MY DEEP LOVE FOR HIM, I SHARED HIS HURT...AND WANTED ONLY TO RELIEVE HIM OF HIS PAIN.

I KNEW MY FATHER TO BE A HARD
MAN, UNFORGIVING, COLD AND OFTEN
CRUEL. YET, NEVER BEFORE HAD I
WITNESSED THE BOUNDS OF
HIS TRUCULENCE. WITH ME, HIS
BELOVED SON, HE HAD ALWAYS
CURBED HIS TEMPER... CRACKED
HIS TONGUE.

SO YOU ARE
UNAPOKED,
MY FA THEUL
GRETCHEN?

HA! HA!
HA! NOT
FOR LONG!

MY SON MELTED AND WINCED AT EACH DEADLY BLOW OF THE HEADSMAN'S METAL
SWORD. HE MOANED, WITH EACH HIDEOUS CRACK, A SOUND OF PAIN THAT
VIRTUOUS GRETCHEN'S BACK.

STILL, SHE CLUNG DESPERATELY
TO LIFE, NEVER CRYING OUT, SILENTLY
PRAYING THAT MY FATHER WOULD
UNDERSTAND AND FORGIVE...

P-PLEASE

HE DID NOT!

INSTEAD, HE ORDERED THE HEADS-
MAN TO SEAL HER VIRTUES WITH
THE WHITE HOT IRON. I
SCREAMED IN HORROR AS MY
LOVE'S FLESH CRACKLED, BURST
AND SMOKED THE FOUL STENCH
OF DEATH.

SHE DID NOT CRY EVEN AS SHE
ENTERED INTO THE GREAT
ETERNITY.

No0000!

THEN, IN UNCONTROLLABLE
RAGE, MY FATHER TOOK
HIS SWORD AND FLAILED
IT MERCILESSLY ABOUT MY
FACE.

...UNTIL
I JOINED MY GRETCHEN
IN THE PEACEABLE
SLEEP HEREAFTER.

BLOOD SPILLED FROM A
GAPING HOLE WHERE
ONCE MY NOSE HAD BEEN.
FIRST ONE EYE, THEN THE
OTHER WAS RIPPED FROM
ITS SOCKET. TEETH, BARED
BY A MASSING L.P., SPLIN-
TERED WITH EACH
SUCCESSIVE BLOW.

YET NOW MY FATHER FORCED ME TO
WATCH AS HIS MERCENARIES
STRIPPED MY GRETCHEN OF HER
GARS, AND BOUND HER WITH CHAINS,
SHAMING HER WITH THEIR LAUGHING
LEERSOME SMILES.

AGAIN, AGAIN. HE
STRUCK... AND I
PRAYED HE WOULD
NOT CEASE...

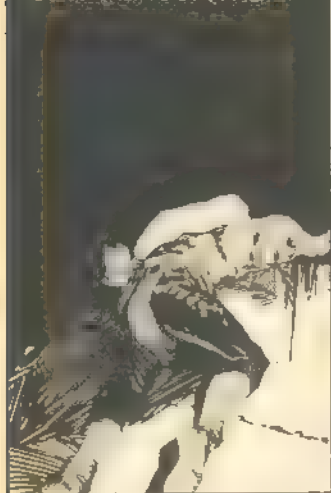
NOT UNTIL MY FACE WAS RENDERED A FORMLESS, BLOODED MASS OF **GORE**, WAS MY FATHER'S RAGE **ABATED**.

YOUR PRETTY
FEATURES WILL NEVER
AGAIN **CONCEAL** YOUR
SOUL MOST FOUL.

LET ALL THOSE
WHO LOOK UPON YOU, KNOW
THAT YOU ARE AS **VILE**,
AS **SPOILED** AS
YOUR FACE!

MY SIRE LEFT US THEN. **A-
LONE** IN THE DARKSOME
DUNGEON SMELLING OF **DEATH**
AND **HATE**.

SCARRED, DISFIGURED, BLINDED
THOUGH I WAS, MY THOUGHTS
FLOODED WITH CONCERN FOR
FOUR BECKONING **GRETCHEN**.



AFTER A TIME THEY **CAME** FOR ME TO LEAD ME **AWAY**...TO **EXPUL** ME
FOREVER FROM MY FATHER'S KINGDOM ... MY **HOME**.

THOSE WHO GUIDED ME TO THE FOREST, SPOKE BUT BRIEFLY. AND IT WAS THE
LAST TIME I WAS EVER TO HEAR THE MUSIC OF A HUMAN **VOICE**.

LET NO MAN **SEE**
YOU NO MAN **SPEAK**
WITH YOU FOR **IF** IT COMES
TO PASS, SURELY YOUR
FATHER WILL PUT THAT
MAN TO **DEATH**.



AND WHEN I WAS
ALONE WITH
NAUGHT BUT DARK-
NESS AND A SILENT
FOREST FOR COM-
PANIONSHIP, I CRIED
AGAIN...NOT FOR
MYSELF...NOT
FOR MY **FATHER**
WHO HAD BEEN SO
TRAGICALLY
WRONGED ...!

MY TEARS WERE
FOR MY LOVE NOW
LOST GENTLE,
INNOCENT
GRETCHEN.



GRETCHEN'S NIGHTMARE
HIS HAS HAUNTED
THE DARKNESS OF MY
DREAMS... CLING LIKE A
TALONED BEAST UPON
MY BACK... REINDEER
MY DARK DAYS EVEN
BLACKER.

I COULD NO MORE FOR-
GET MY BELOVED'S
HORRIBLE DEATH THAN
COULD I THE LOVE
LINGERING WITHIN MY
SOUL...

...LOVE FOR HER...
THE FAIREST, GENTLEST
CREATURE OF ALL.



AND NOW, EVEN NOW... I
REPEAT MY STORY
DAILY TO THE ONLY EARS
THAT WILL LISTEN

I **RELIVE** MY TALE SO
THAT ONCE AGAIN GRETCHEN
MIGHT **LIVE**... AND LIGHT
THE BLACKNESS OF MY LIFE.



SOMEHOW... SOMEWAY, I
KNOW MY WINGED COM-
PANIONS HAVE UNDER-
STOOD MY TALE BEST. PER-
HAPS THEY, ABOVE ALL
OTHER CREATURES, UNDER-
STAND LOVE AND THE
BEAUTIFUL WORLD
ENSHRINED

I SENSE SOMETHING **MORE**
IN MY FRIENDS ON WING. AN
ALMOST **UNEARTHLY**
FEELING. I CANNOT ESCAPE
THE BELIEF THAT SOMEHOW,
IF THEY HAD THE **POWER**,
MY FLEET SOARING COM-
PANIONS WOULD **RIGHT**
THE INJUSTICE THAT HAS
BEEN COMMITTED.



THEY ARE SENSITIVE
CREATURES DEEPLY
AFFECTED BY senseless
SUFFERING YET TOO, THEY
HAVE AN INNER STRENGTH
UNEXPECTED IN CREATURES
SO DELICATE



YET THEY CANNOT TRULY UNDERSTAND
MY WORDS OR THE HORRORS I RELATE
TO THEM DAILY. IF THEY COULD, THEIR SOUL
WOULD CHILL AT THE THOUGHT OF
THEIR VENGEANCE.



PERHAPS
IT IS WELL
THEY CAN-
NOT COM-
PREHEND THE
SORROWS
OF MEN.

END

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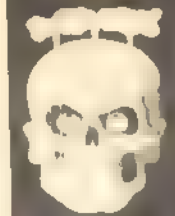
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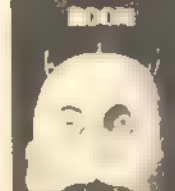
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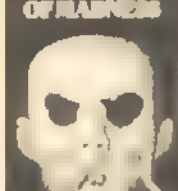
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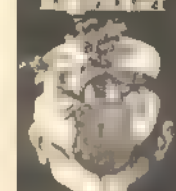
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PLANET OF THE APES CHARLTON HESTON

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BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES

More astronauts land and are befriended by chimpanzees. Cornelius and Zira arrive on the Forbidden Zone and discover a warlike race of horrifying mutants. Apes, humans and mutants clash in battle for atomic warheads. SUPER 8 & W #22054 \$9.95 COLOR #22071 \$19.95 COLOR & SOUND #22090 \$24.95

ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira find a working spaceship escape atomic destruction of the Ape world. Journey through the same time warp that stranded the astronauts. They land on a hostile modern earth. Government forces attack and destroy them. SUPER 8 & W #22055 \$9.95 COLOR #22072 \$19.95 COLOR & SOUND #22091 \$24.95



CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira's son, Caesar, is raised by a kindly circus owner who knows his origin. He leads an insurrection against the ape-saves human owners. Los Angeles is destroyed in battle. SUPER 8 BLACK & WHITE #22056 \$9.95 COLOR #22073 \$19.95 COLOR & SOUND #22092 \$24.95

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

Caesar becomes a benevolent leader. Curiosity prompts him to search the Forbidden City for tapes of his parents. He is discovered by mutants who attack the ape city and a gorilla insurrection. SUPER 8 BLACK & WHITE #22057 \$9.95 COLOR #22074 \$19.95 COLOR & SOUND #22093 \$24.95

PLANET OF THE APES PAPERBACKS



Chapter 1 in the great Ape tale. Humans are slaves and Ape rule! Exciting reading! Now #2127 95c



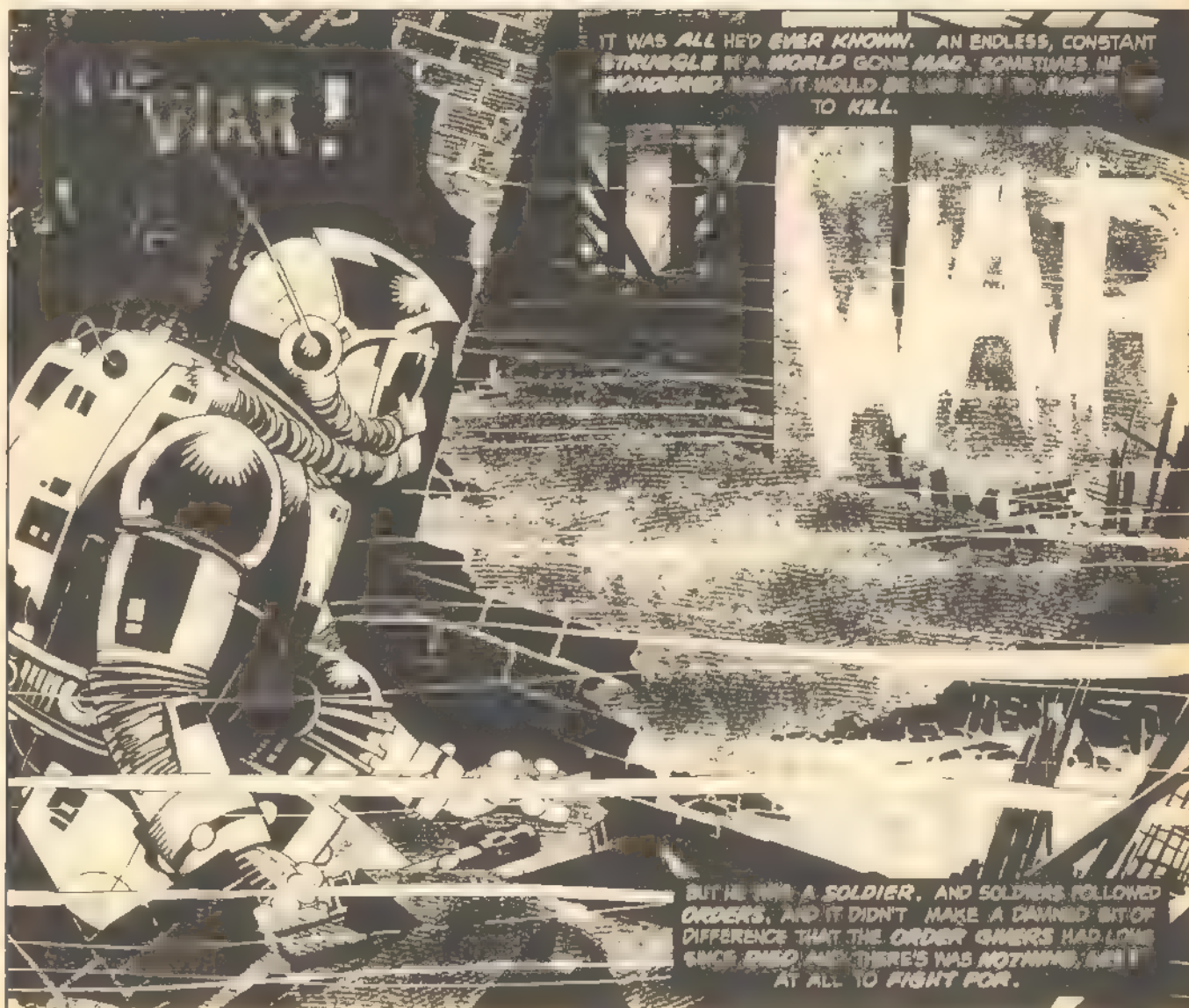
Ape use astrology ship fly to Earth and fight to stay alive! The year 1973 #2117 95c

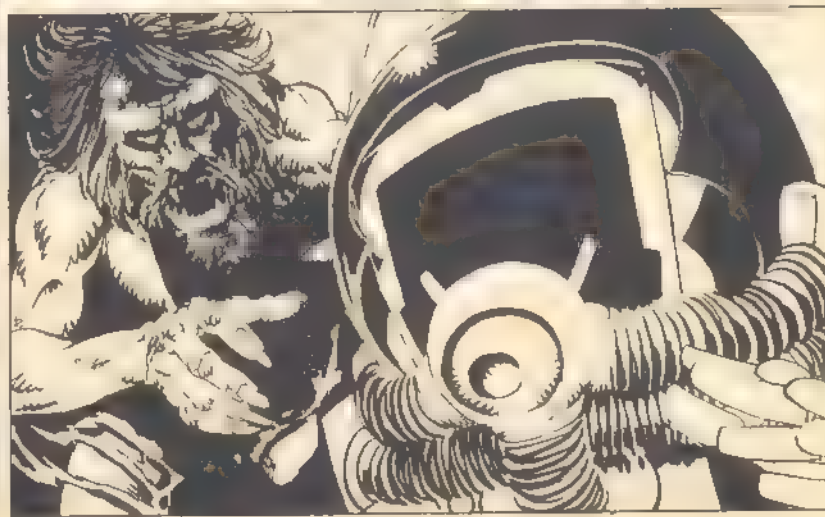
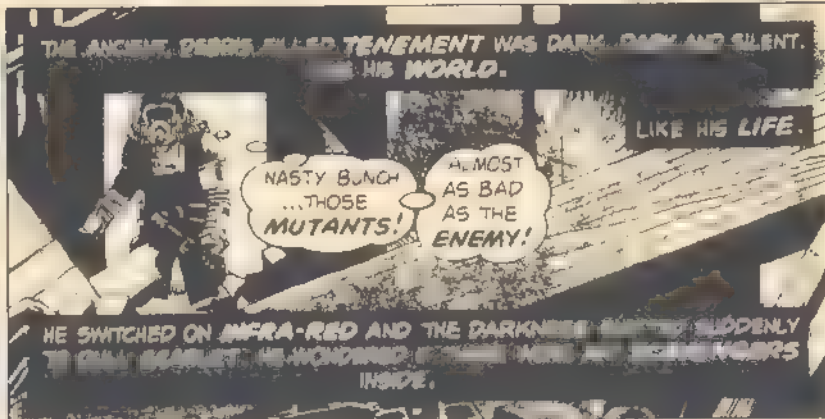


Ape Ape war on Earth and he begins a rebellion against the Humans. #2118 95c



An insurrection by the Apes. An incredible race to these ape Ape city! #2119 95c







MOST OF THEM HAD SURVIVED THE WAR...THE SUN-BRIGHT
BRILLIANCE OF THE RUPTURING BOMBS...SLEEPING LAMELY
SLUMP IN CRACK CRACKETS HIDDEN IN DARK CORNERS OF THE
WORLD.



THE SCAVENGERS THE UNDER...

...THE VAMPIRES!



THE MUTANT'S STRENGTH WAS AWESOME...YET HE STILL MANAGED
TO RAISE HIS LASER...TO GROPE DESPERATELY FOR THE
TRIGGER...TO--



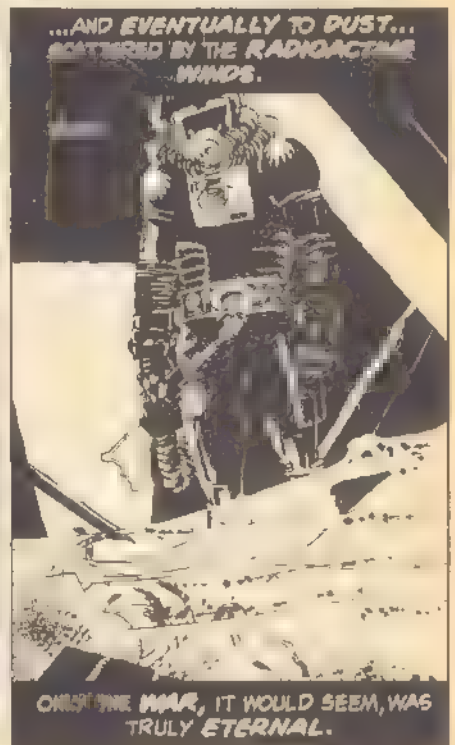
AARRGGH!



THE SCAVENGER TASTED AGAIN OF
DEATH...

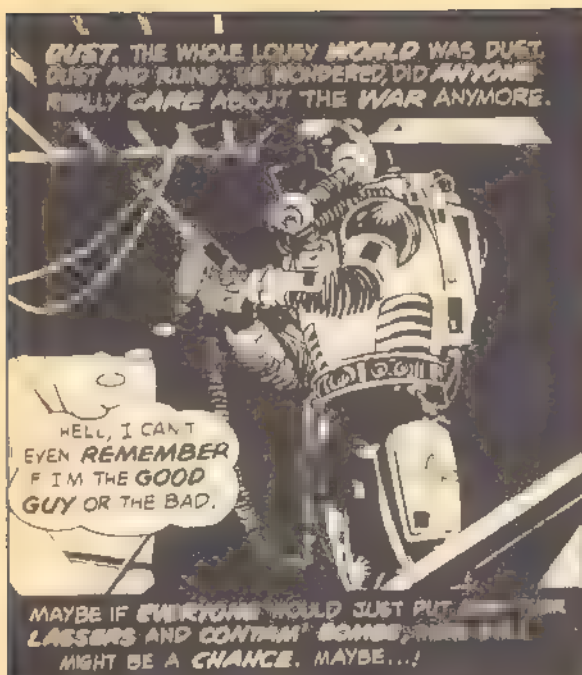


...AGED FROM DEAD WHITE SKIN
TO DEAD WHITE BONE...



...AND EVENTUALLY TO DUST...
SCATTERED BY THE RADIOACTIVE
WINDS.

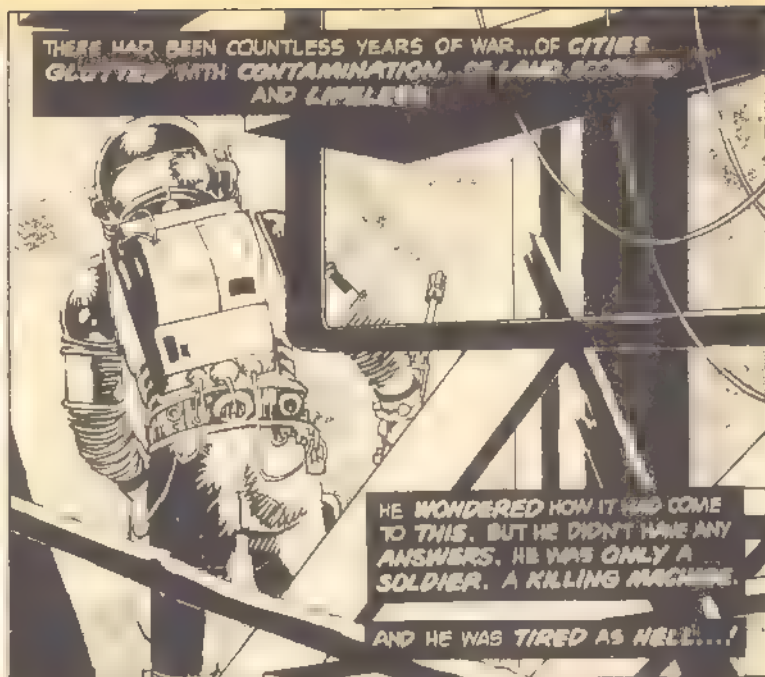
ONCE THE WAR, IT WOULD SEEM, WAS
TRULY ETERNAL.



DUST. THE WHOLE LOVELY WORLD WAS DUST, DUST AND RUIN. HE WONDERED DID ANYONE REALLY CARE ABOUT THE WAR ANYMORE.

HELL, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER IF I'M THE GOOD GUY OR THE BAD.

MAYBE IF EVERYONE WOULD JUST PUT DOWN THEIR LASERS AND CONTAM BOMBS, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE. MAYBE...



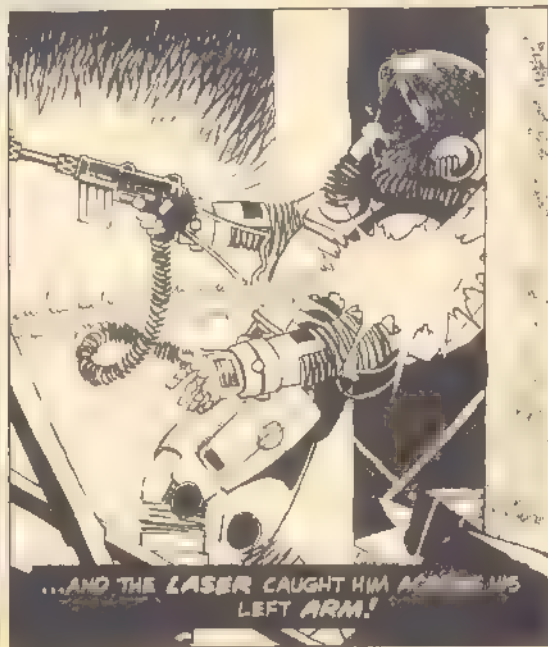
THERE HAD BEEN COUNTLESS YEARS OF WAR...OF CITIES GLUTTED WITH CONTAMINATION...OF LAND SCORCHED AND LIFELESS.

HE WONDERED HOW IT HAD COME TO THIS. BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY ANSWERS. HE WAS ONLY A SOLDIER. A KILLING MACHINE.

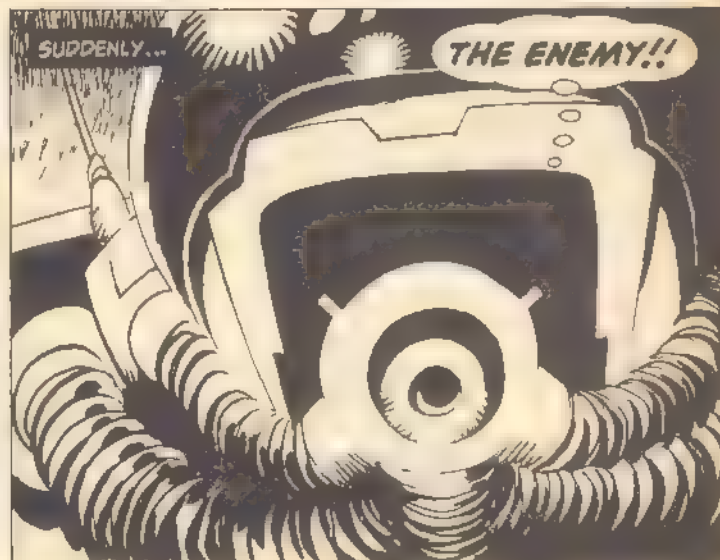
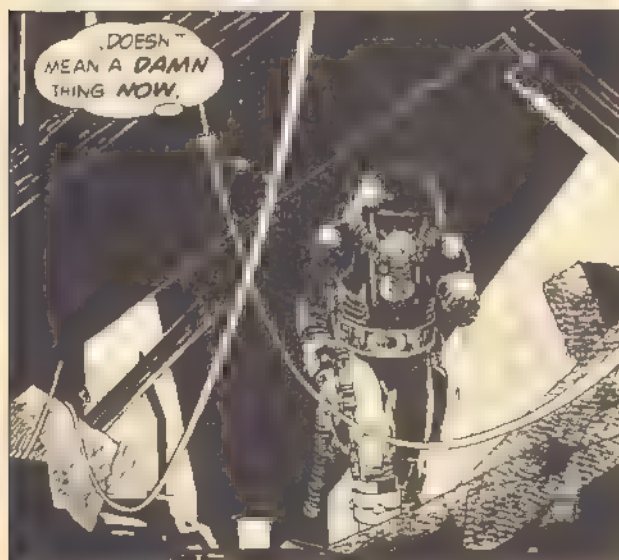
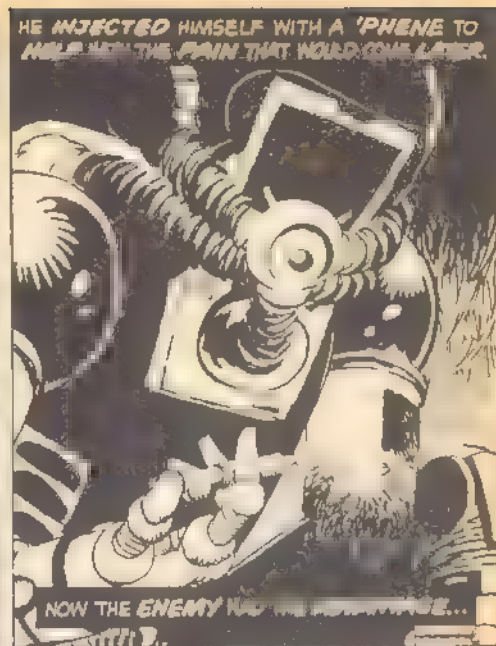
AND HE WAS TIRED AS HELL...



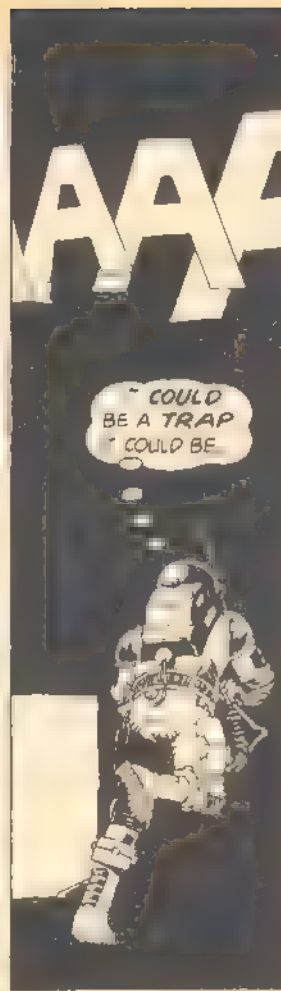
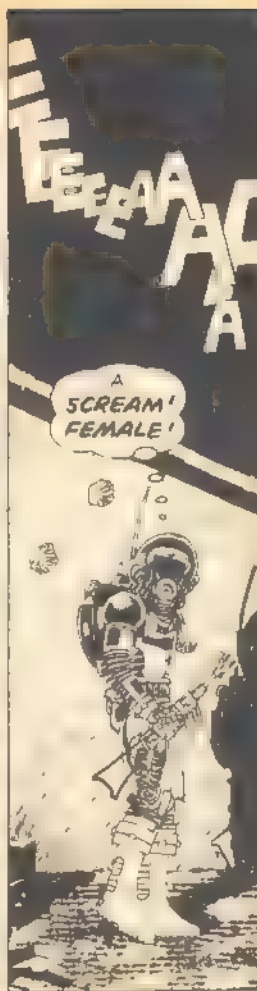
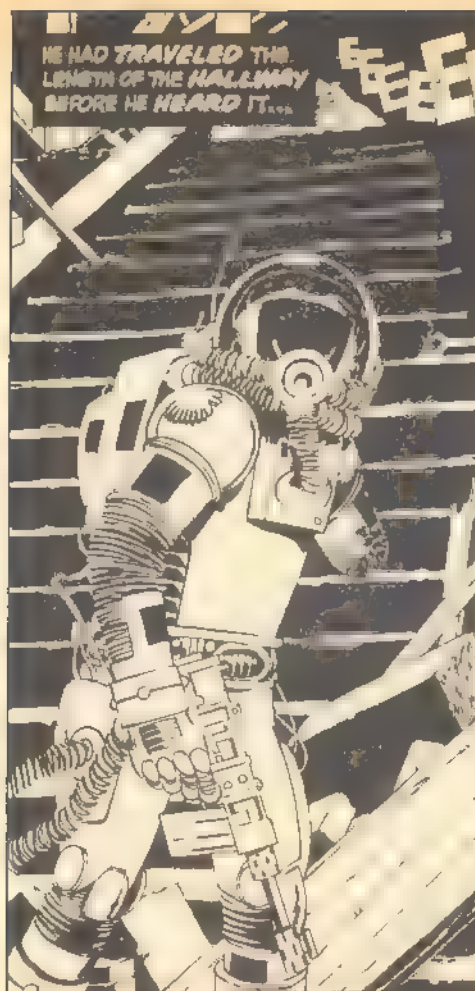
IT HAD BEEN AN APARTMENT ONCE. PEOPLE HAD LIVED THERE. NOW THERE WAS NOTHING. HE HAD BEEN TO THE MALLWAY.



...AND THE LASER CAUGHT HIM ACROSS HIS LEFT ARM!

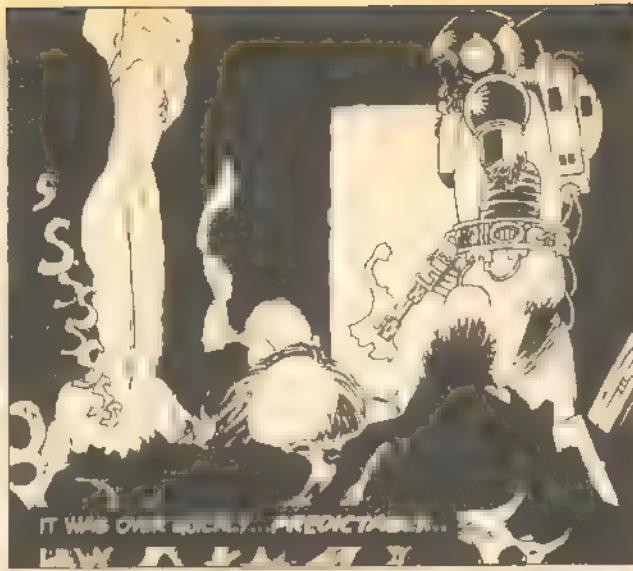








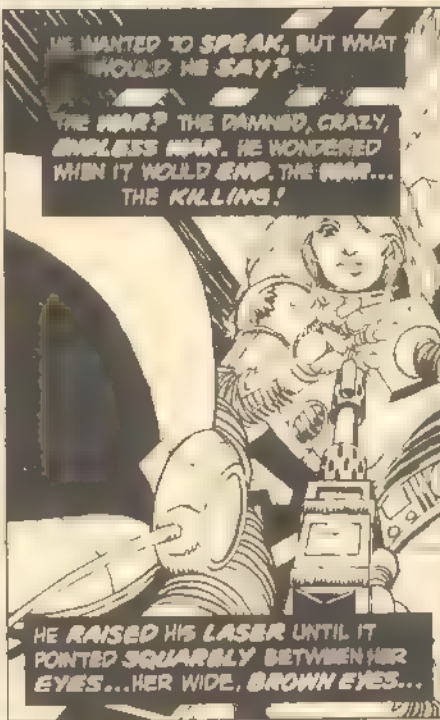
HE SCREAMED AS HE LEAPT TOWARD THE SCAVENGERS AND HIS LASER WAS A DEADLY, BURNING SYCTHE.



IT WAS OVER QUICKLY... PREDICTABLE...



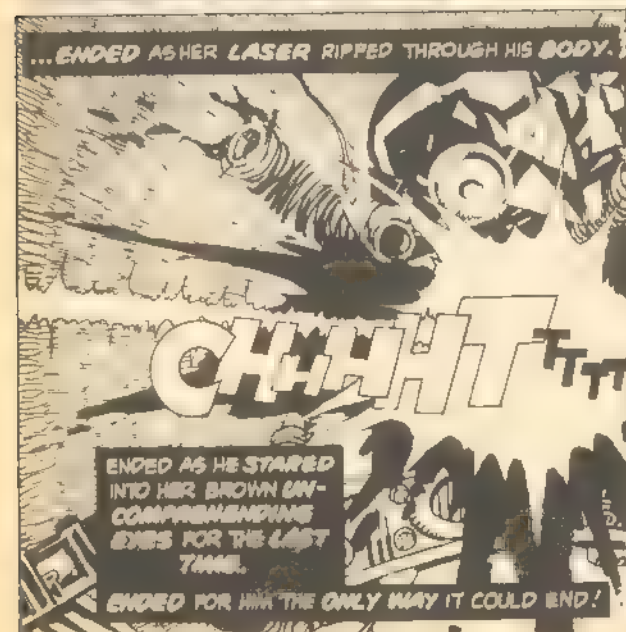
...AND HE WONDERED...HOW MUCH WORSE WAS HE THAN THE SCAVENGERS?



HE RAISED HIS LASER UNTIL IT POINTED SQUARELY BETWEEN HER EYES...HER WIDE, BROWN EYES...



THE WAR WAS ENDED, AT LEAST FOR HIM...



ENDED AS HE STARED INTO HER BROWN UN-COMPREHENDING EYES FOR THE LAST TIME.

ENDED FOR HIM THE ONLY WAY IT COULD END!



MAN AGAINST WOMAN. THE MOST USELESS OF ALL WARS.

AND HE WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE, WITHOUT A WAR TO FIGHT.

NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THIS EASY TO KILL, DID YOU EDDY? NO, YOU ALWAYS IMAGINED THAT IT WOULD BE HARDER TO ACTUALLY TAKE THE RAZOR AND...



NO PROBLEM, MR. TYSON. YOU'RE MY LAST CUSTOMER.

THE RAZOR FITS COMFORTABLY IN YOUR HAND, LIKE A PART OF YOU, AS YOU SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, HONE IT TO A KEEN SHARPNESS. AND YOU THINK, AS YOU OFTEN DO, HOW MUCH IT RESEMBLES A SCALPEL. AND HOW MUCH YOUR MOTHER WANTED YOU TO BECOME A DOCTOR. SHE HAD NEVER STOPPED NAGGING YOU, HAD SHE EDDY? MY SON, SHE'D SAY, THE BARBER. THEN SHE'D LAUGH.



BUT SHE DIDN'T LAUGH AT YOU ANYMORE WHEN YOU PUSHED HER DOWN THE BASEMENT STAIRS, DID SHE EDDY? NOW SHE IS DEAD AND YOU ARE FREE. FREE TO KILL AGAIN.

YOU FEEL GOOD, DON'T YOU EDDY? GLAD THAT IT'S FINALLY ALMOST OVER. ALL THE LONG MONTHS OF PLANNING AND SCHEMING WITH LINDA, HIS WIFE, AND THE POMPOUS, ARROGANT FOOL DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING!



DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT YOU...THE BORN LOSER...HAVE ALREADY TAKEN HIS "LOVING" WIFE...SEVERAL TIMES...AND WILL SOON TAKE HIS MONEY...

...AND HIS LIFE!



CLOSE SHAVE

TIME STANDS STILL. THE WORLD TURNING RED AND YOUR ARM IS NEARLY NUMB FROM THE FORCE OF THE BLOW. YOU NEARLY TOOK TYSON'S HEAD OFF.

TYSON LURCHES BACK IN THE BARBER CHAIR, THEN STIFFENS. BLOOD AND BREATH MIX... RATTLING IN HIS THROAT AS HE DIES.

AND YOU THINK OF LINDA. TAN, BEAUTIFUL, DARK EYED, LONG LEGGED LINDA. GOD, A MAN COULD LOSE HIMSELF TO HER...AND THE MONEY...A HUNDRED GRAND.

YOURS NOW, EDDY. YOURS, THE BORN LOSER.

YOU'VE GOT IT MADE.

YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES AND FORCE YOURSELF TO REMEMBER THE PLAN. THE **TRUCK** PARKED OUT BACK... LINDA, WAITING WITH TYSON'S CAR... THE BROKEN BRAKE LINE... IT GROWS SUDDENLY **HOT**... YOU DAB AT YOUR FACE WITH A TOWEL, YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING AND THE ROOM IS DRUMMING.



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET RID OF THE...

... BODY.

TING TING



YOU JERK YOUR HEAD TOWARD THE DOOR OF YOUR SHOP AND YOU TREMBLE WORSE THAN OLD JAKE, THE TOWN DRUNK, WHO STANDS THERE LURCHING BACK AND FORTH. DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS, DID YOU EDDY? BETTER GET RID OF HIM QUICK!

O-OP'N KINDA LATE AIN'TCHA, EDDY?



M-MATTER A FACT, I WAS JUST CLOSIN'. WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TOMORROW. SURE, TOMORROW, JAKE, I...

NICE AN' C-COOL IN HERE, AIN'T IT EDDY? MIND IF I SET A SPELL AND CATCH MY BREATH, EDDY?



CALM. YOU TRY TO STAY CALM, BUT YOUR VOICE SCREAMS WITH A FRUSTRATED GEAR.

MIND? DAMN RIGHT I MIND! NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE I...



JAKE STANDS THERE, BLINKING DUMBLY AT YOUR SUDDEN RAGE, AND THEN YOU HEAR IT. THE LAUGHTER. THE HELLISH LAUGHTER...



E-EDDY, I...

...INHUMAN LAUGHTER, A HIDEOUS, HIGH PITCHED TITTLING THAT GROWS PAINFULLY LOUDER.



YOU LOOK AT TYSON, LIMP AND BLOOD STAINED, AND YOUR HEAD POUNDS IN A SORE. LAUGHTER... IS IT POSSIBLE...

THE LAUGHTER BUILDS, RISING TOWARD AN EAR SPLITTING CRESCENDO. TRY TO FIGHT IT, BUT IT WON'T, DOESN'T IT, EDDY?

OH, GOD... STOP IT! STOP IT!



EDDY? WH'S A MATTER? YOU SHICK, PAL?



TYSON'S BODY HITS THE FLOOR WITH A DULL THUMP. THE LAUGHTER ENDS.

YOU ARE WEAK... DRAINED... UNABLE TO GET UP, TO EVEN SPEAK. SO YOU WATCH OLD JAKE'S EYES TRAVEL FIRST FROM THE CORPSE TO THE RAZOR IN YOUR HAND (WHEN DID YOU PICK IT BACK UP, YOU WONDER) AND BACK AGAIN TO THE CORPSE.

OOPS! SHORRY 'BOUT THAT, PAL! I--



HIS MOUTH WORKS FOOLISHLY AS IF WANTING TO SPEAK AND WHEN HE FINALLY DOES IT IS A HOARSE, CHOKED WHISPER.

OH MY G. GOD



JAKE TURNS CLIMBSILY AND STAGGERS TOWARDS THE DOOR. YOU HEAR HIM GAG. YOU CLENCH THE RAZOR TIGHTLY, KNOWING YOU CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE... NOT AFTER WHAT HE'S SEEN. THE DAMNED, DRUNKEN FOOL. YOU LURCH TO YOUR FEET, KNOWING YOU CAN CATCH HIM EASILY...



...AND YOU SLIP, SPRAWLING HEAD FIRST ON THE FLOOR.



.BLOOD



BY THE TIME YOU REACH THE STREET JAKE HAS DISAPPEARED.

DAMN IT, WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?

RSHOP



BUT TYSON HASN'T, HAS HE EDDY? LORD, WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE COMES BY?



WHAT IF OLD JAKE BRINGS HELP? BETTER HURRY, EDDY.

MOVE IT, LOSER.



RUSHING IN YOU SLAM THE DOOR SHUT BEHIND YOU, FLIP THE LOCK, AND PULL THE BLINDS SHUT. YOU LEAN HEAVILY, WEARILY, AGAINST THE DOOR.

YOU TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND TRY TO THINK. MAYBE, IF YOU HURRY THERE WILL STILL BE TIME. TIME TO GET RID OF TYSON'S BODY, JUST LIKE YOU'D PLANNED. TIME TO CATCH THAT FLIGHT WITH LINDA. TIME TO LIVE. SURE, WHY NOT? WHO'D BELIEVE JAKE ANYWAY? SURE, WHO'D--

THE LAUGHTER BEGINS AGAIN AND YOU...



HA-HA-HA-HA



...SCREAM!

STOP IT, DAMN YOU!
STOP IT!



STOP IT. STOP IT.
STOP IT. STOP IT!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

HA-HA-HA

POOR EDDY, THE LOSER.
NOW YOU'VE LOST EVERYTHING,
HAVEN'T YOU, EDDY?

IN YOUR MIND.

PLEASE...



THEN YOU HEAR OTHER
SOUNDS. FOOTSTEPS
RUNNING THIS WAY. YOUR
EYES WIDEN IN FEAR.
BILE RISES STINGINGLY IN
YOUR THROAT.

THEY'VE FOUND YOU.
PROBABLY THE POLICE.
NO TIME TO HIDE... OR
EVEN RUN...

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

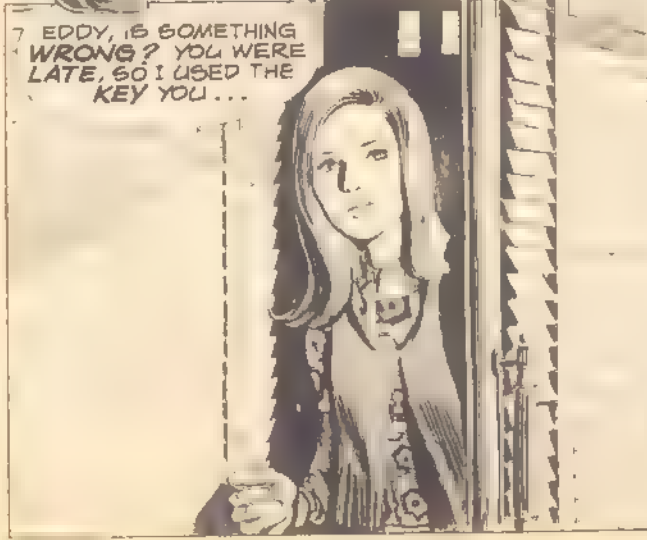


... SO YOU WAIT. TEETH CLENCHED.
YOUR KNUCKLES WHITE FROM
GRIPPING THE BLOOD STAINED
RAZOR. AND THE FOOTSTEPS WAIT
OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR.



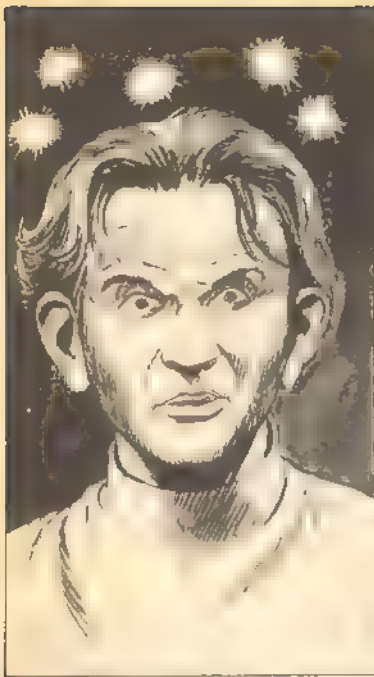
YOU HEAR A KEY SLIDE INTO THE
LOCK AND THE DOOR CLICKS OPEN.
AND YOU THINK OF LINDA AND THE
MONEY AND YOU THINK THERE
MIGHT STILL BE A CHANCE...
YOU'RE QUICK ENOUGH.

7 EDDY, IS SOMETHING
WRONG? YOU WERE
LATE, SO I USED THE
KEY YOU ...

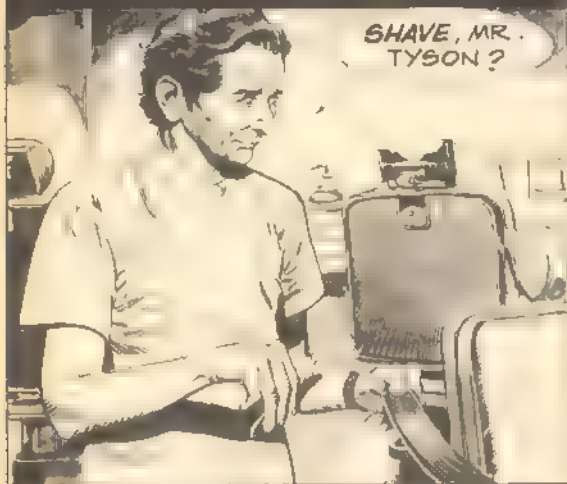


...EDDYyyy!!

NOOOO!



YOU TURN SLOWLY, FEELING THE RAZOR IN YOUR HAND. YOU LOOK ACROSS THE BARBER SHOP...AND YOU WANT TO CRY, BUT YOU NEARLY LAUGH.



THEY FIND YOU THE NEXT DAY AND YOU DON'T PROTEST AS THEY LEAD YOU AWAY.

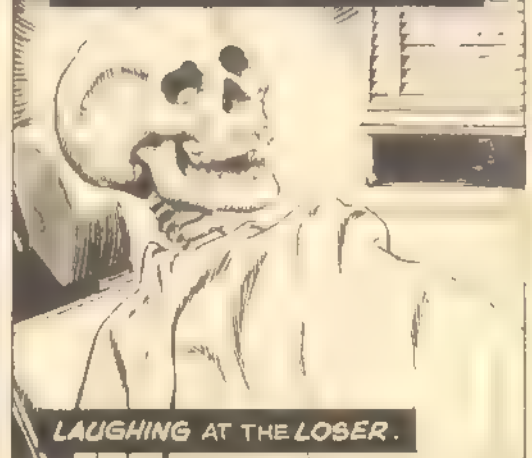


YOU STEP CAREFULLY OVER SOMETHING LYING IN THE DOOR. WHAT IS IT? FUNNY, YOU SHOULDN'T REMEMBER... BUT YOU CAN'T.



YOU STOP, FOR A SECOND, AND LOOK BACK AT... AT TYSON. YES, YOU REMEMBER HIM. AFTER ALL, YOU GAVE HIM A SHAVE...

A CLOSE SHAVE... I CAN'T EVEN MOST SWEAR... I'M STILL LAUGHING AT YOU, WOULDN'T YOU EDDY?



LAUGHING AT THE LOSER.

"LET ME TELL YOU OF THE
TRENCHES, SIGFRID. HOW
CAN YOU EVER KNOW OF
THE HORRORS...THE MISERY
THAT ROTTS MEN'S SOULS
IN THE TRENCHES.

"YOU...IN YOUR GLORIOUS
CRAFT THAT GLIDES SO
GRACIOUSLY THROUGH THE
SKIES...YOU DO NOT
KNOW OF WAR. YOU KNOW
ONLY OF GALLANTRY,
GLAMOUR AND GLORY.

"YOU TALK OF COMRADESHIP,
SIGFRID...AND HOW IT
DOMINATES THE
AIRWAYS. YOU TALK
OF COMRADESHIP,
BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS.

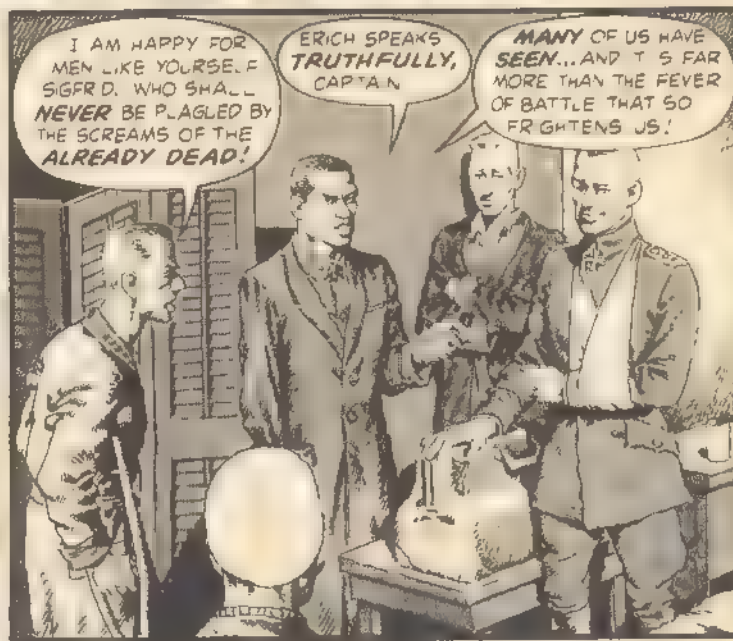
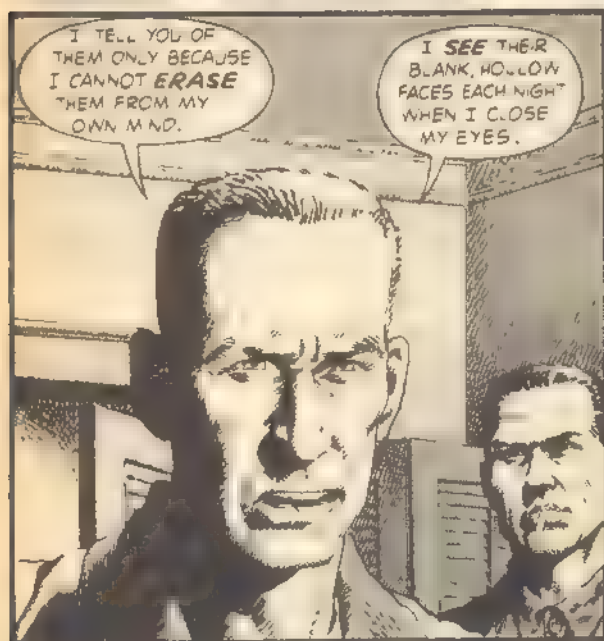
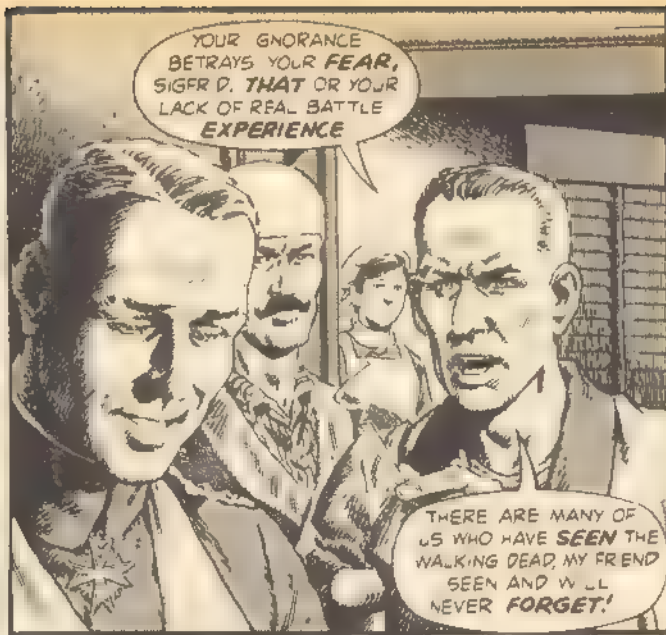
"WOULD YOU STILL FEEL AMICABLE TOWARDS THE
ROTTING, STINKING BODY OF YOUR BROTHER
AFTER HIS CORPSE HAS LAIN FOR THREE DAYS
IN A SEWAGE-FILLED TRENCH... HIS FLESH
IMBIBED BY AN ENEMY SHELL FRAGMENT,
SMELLING OF FOUL STOMACH JUICES AND
SECRECTIONS OF DEATH?"

"HOW WOULD YOU ABIL
SIGFRID, IF YOUR DEAD BROTHER
HIS CORPSE MANGLED, DECOMPOSING
CRAWLING WITH MAGGOT WORMS
AND RATS, SUDDENLY MOVED,
GRABBED YOUR ARM TO PULL
HIMSELF UP...AND WALKED
AWAY FROM THE TRENCHES?"

"DO YOU DETECT A NOTE OF SKEPTICISM, SIGFRID? YOU DO NOT
SEE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE DEAD TO RISE AND REVENGE
THE FIELDS OF WAR?"

"AND IS THERE TO STOP THEM, SIGFRID? WHO WOULD DARE?"

BATTLE ROT



BASTOGNE, GERMANY. 1917. SIGFRID VON MEUSE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE KAISER'S ROYAL AIR GUARD. A GENTLEMAN OF WAR. A MAN OF GREAT BRAGGADOCIOUS CLAIMS.



HE HAD SEEN MANY TERRIBLE THINGS IN THIS "WAR TO END ALL WARS." BUT **NEVER** HAD HE SEEN THAT WHICH THE GROUND FORCES SEEMED TO FEAR SO MUCH: THE DEAD RISING TO **WALK** AGAIN!



HE HAD HEARD THE FAIRY TALE **BEFORE**, OF COURSE. ON THE THREE OCCASIONS HE HAD BEEN SENT TO THE FIELD HOSPITAL, HE HAD HEARD FOOT SOLDIERS PERPETUATING THE **MYTH** OF THE TRENCH **ZOMBIES**.



BY NOW, IT WAS AN ANCIENT FABLE TO HIM... A **MYTH** AS COMMONPLACE AS THE RUMORS OF **PEACE**. A MYTH THAT **ANY** OFFICER WITH THE BATTLE-HARDENED SKILLS OF SIGFRID MUST GRACIOUSLY **IGNORE**.



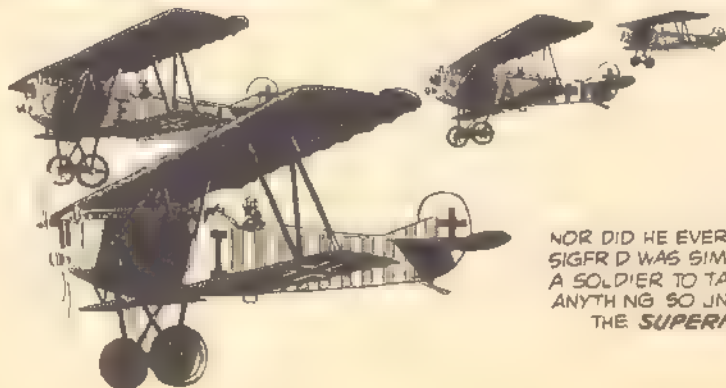
SIGFRID VON MEUSE HAD TAKEN AN ACTIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC HAND IN MORE THAN **THIRTY** AERIAL BATTLES. ALREADY THAT WAS TWENTY-NINE TIMES **MORE** THAN THE AVERAGE FIELD SOLDIER SAW IN HIS **ENTIRE** MILITARY CAREER!



SIGFRID HAD PERSONALLY SENT MORE THAN **FIFTEEN** MEN TO THEIR GRAVES. HE HIMSELF HAD INCURRED WOUNDS IN **THREE** AERIAL ATTACKS, AND HAD ONCE EVEN BEEN FORCED TO LAND HIS BADLY DAMAGED FOKKER IN THE TRENCHES NEAR MONTMEDY!



BUT HE HAD NEVER, **EVER** SEEN ONE OF THE MEN HE KILLED **RISE UP** FROM THE SMOKING EMBERS OF HIS BURNING PLANE.



NOR DID HE EVER **EXPECT** TO. SIGFRID WAS SIMPLY TOO GOOD A SOLDIER TO TAKE STOCK IN ANYTHING SO UNMILITARY AS THE **SUPERNATURAL**.

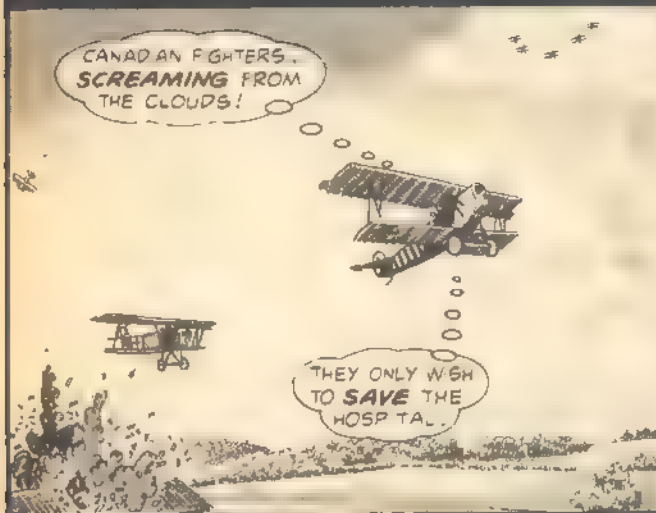
YET, ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 10, 1917, CAPTAIN SIGFRID VON MEUSE SET OUT ON A MISSION THAT WOULD SHATTER BOTH HIS BELIEF... AND HIS SLEEP FOR THE REST OF HIS DAYS.



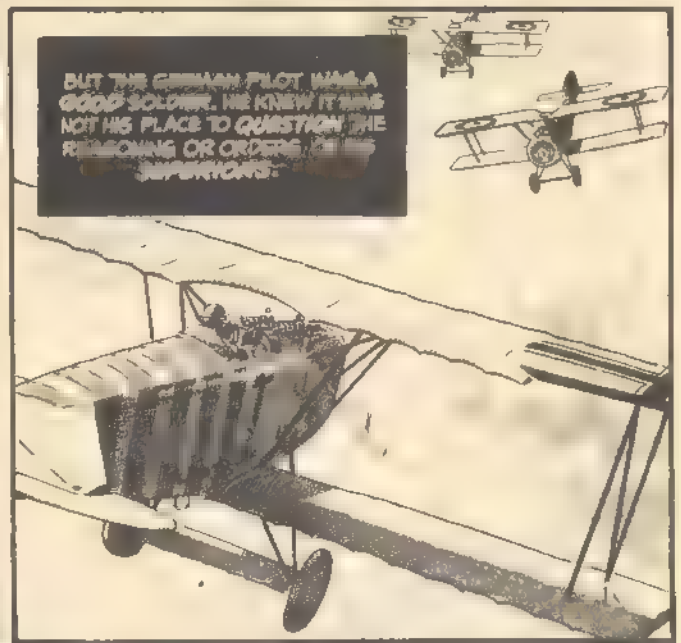
HIS MISSION: DESTROY THE CATHOLIC HOSPITAL AT... BEFORE THE ALLIED FORCES...



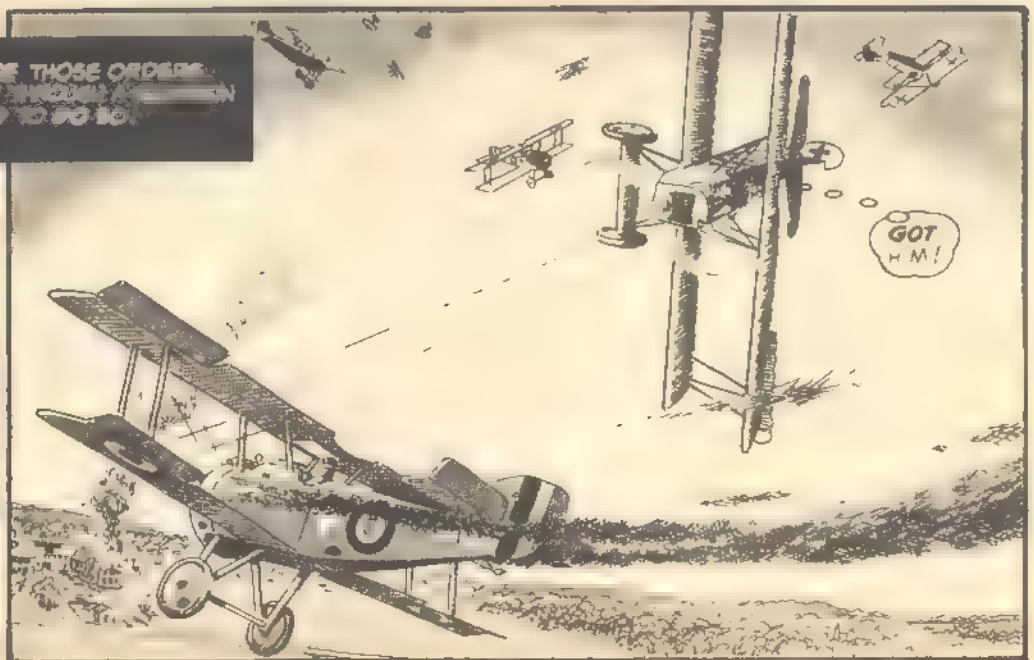
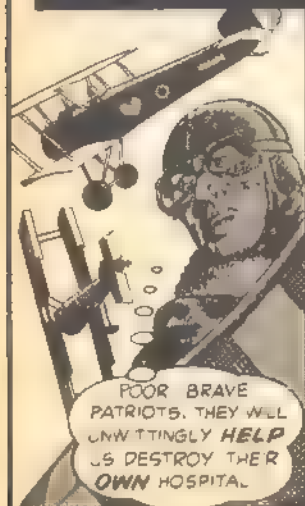
SIGFRID DID NOT PARTICULARLY BELIEVE THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF A CIVILIAN HOSPITAL... AND THE SUBSEQUENT ANNIHILATION OF THE INNOCENT... WAS THE CORRECT ACTION TO HELP GERMANY WIN A WAR.

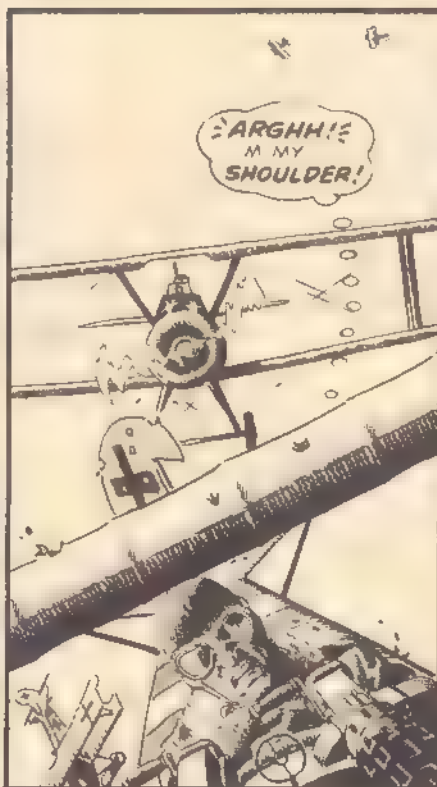
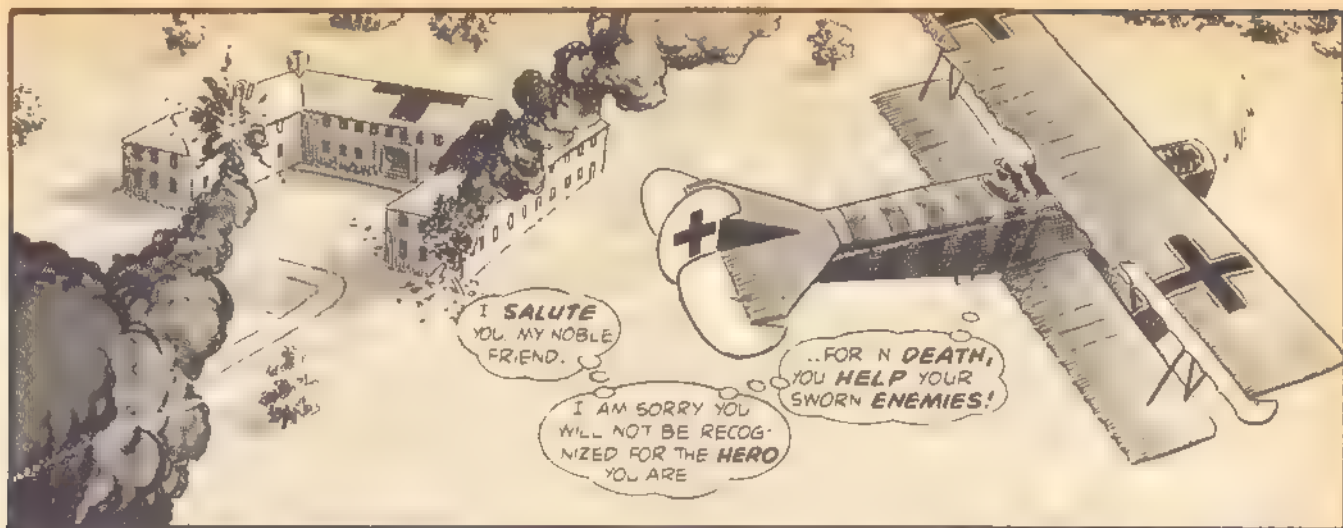


BUT THE GERMAN PILOT WAS A GOOD SOLDIER. HE KNEW IT WAS NOT HIS PLACE TO QUESTION THE REASONING OR ORDERS OF HIS SUPERIORS.

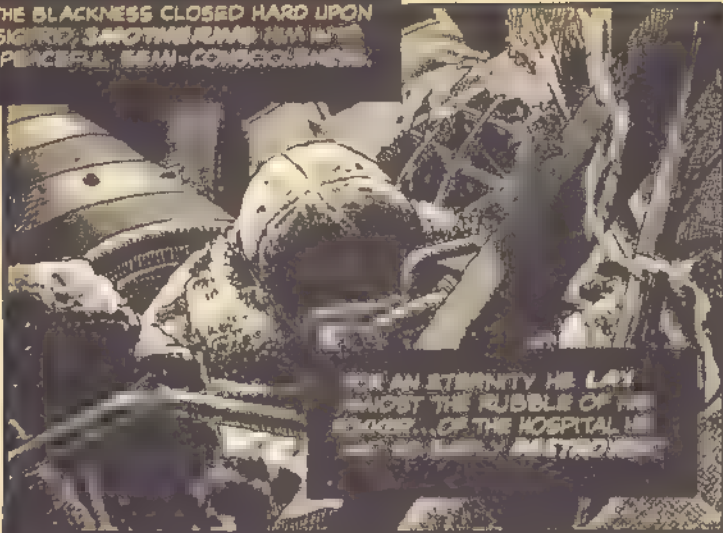


SIGFRID WOULD EXECUTE THOSE ORDERS... HE HAD TO FLY THROUGH A... OF THE WALKING DEAD TO DO SO.





THE BLACKNESS CLOSED HARD UPON SIGFRID, SAVORING THE PEACEFUL, SEMI-CONSCIOUS...

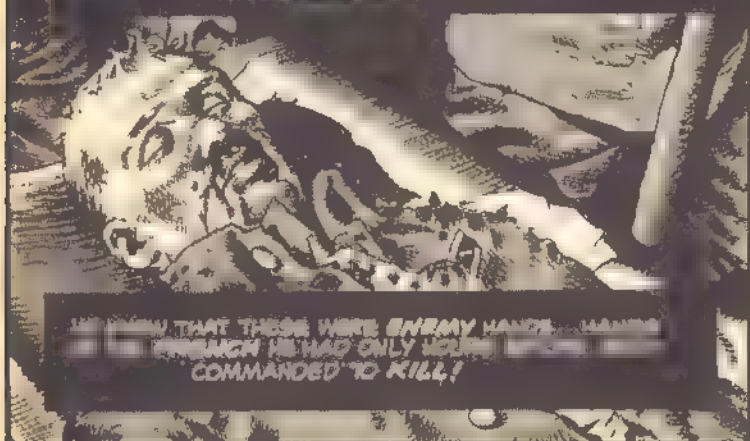


FOR AN ETERNITY HE LAY AMONGST THE RUBBLE OF THE WRECKAGE... OF THE HOSPITAL HE HAD BEEN DESTROYED...

EVENTUALLY THEY CAME...HANDS GROPING FOR HIM IN THE DARKNESS...LIFTING HIM FROM THE WRECKAGE...PEELING AWAY THE JACKET THAT WAS ENCRUSTED WITH HIS OWN DIED BLOOD!



THEY WERE WARM...LOVING...KINDLY HANDS, CARESSING...CLEANING...MINISTERING TO HIS WOUNDS TENDERLY...GIVING HIM A KIND OF EUPHORIA. SIGFRID WAS AWARE OF THE PAIN AND SOMETHING, MORE.



HE KNEW THAT THESE WERE ENEMY HANDS...YET ENOUGH HE HAD ONLY BEEN COMMANDED TO KILL!

HE TRIED DESPERATELY TO OPEN HIS EYES...TO SEE...REASSURE THOSE WHO TEND HIM. IT WAS AN EFFORT AS VALIANT AS ANY HE HAD IN THE LONG, BLOODY TIME...

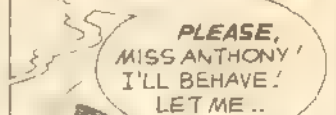
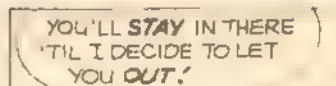
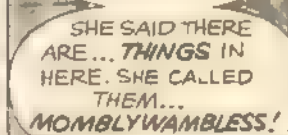
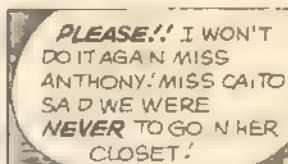
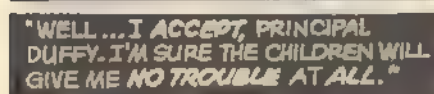
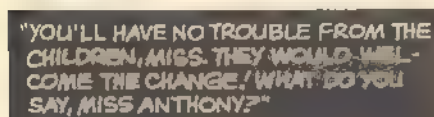
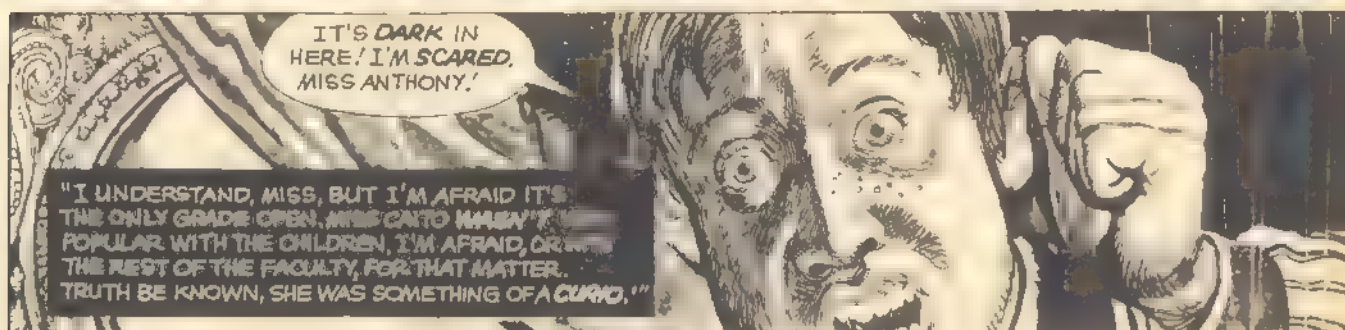


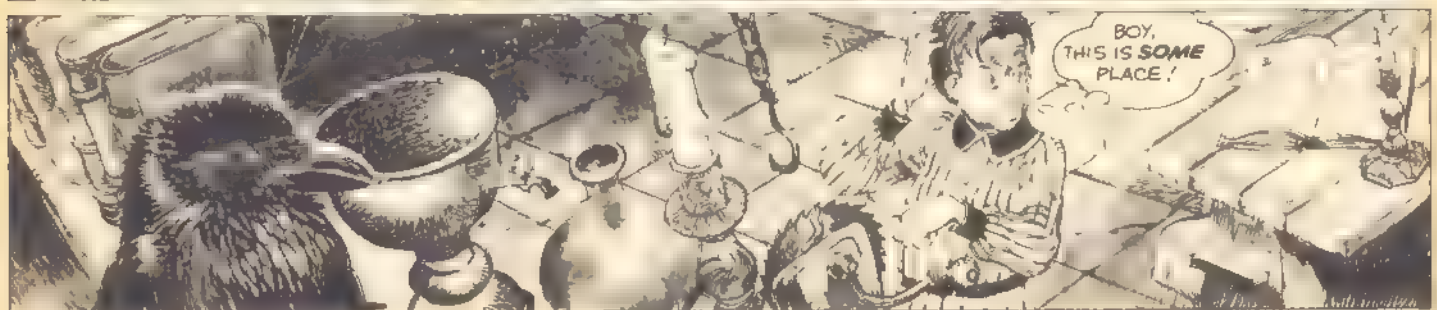
SIGFRID WANTED INCONSOLABLY TO THANK THESE NOBLE FRENCHMEN WHO MINISTERED TO HIM. HIS LIPS PARTED...MANAGING A FAINT SMILE. HIS EYELIDS, HEAVY FROM THE PAIN...THE BLOOD CARRING HIS FACE...LIFTED EVER SO SLOWLY.

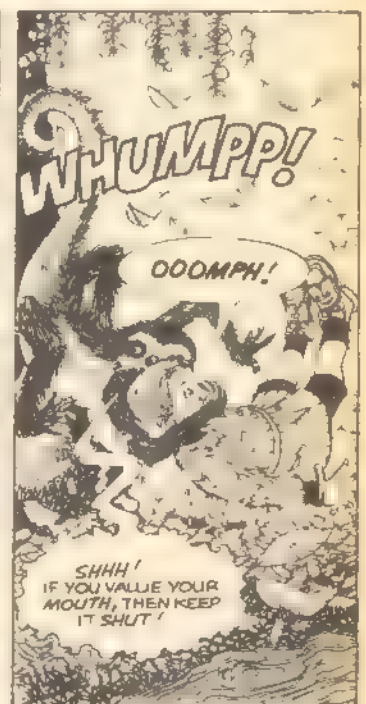
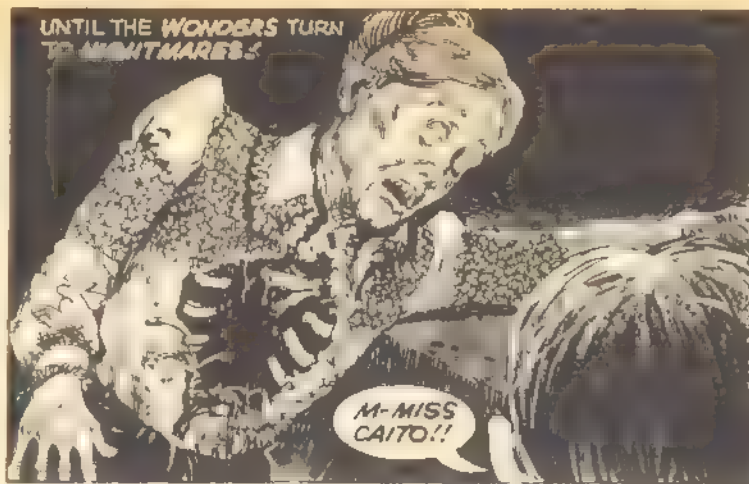


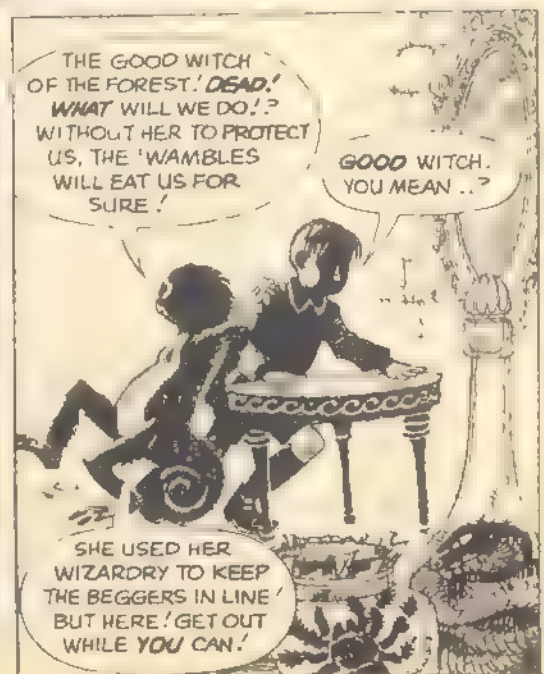
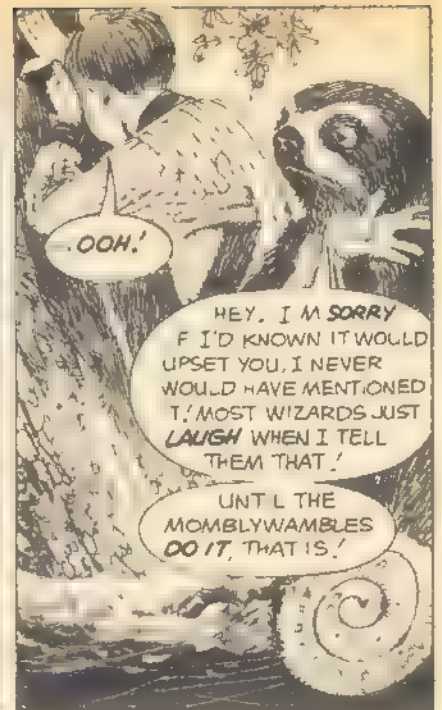
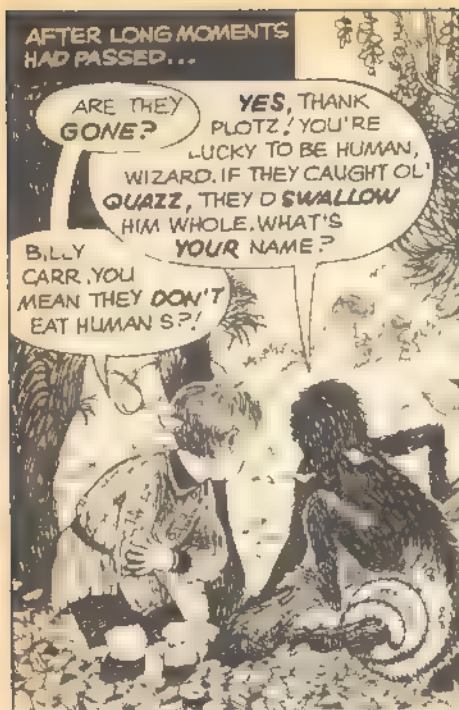
AND SIGFRID VON MEUSE SCREAMED, HE SCREAMED UNTIL HIS SANITY WAS...

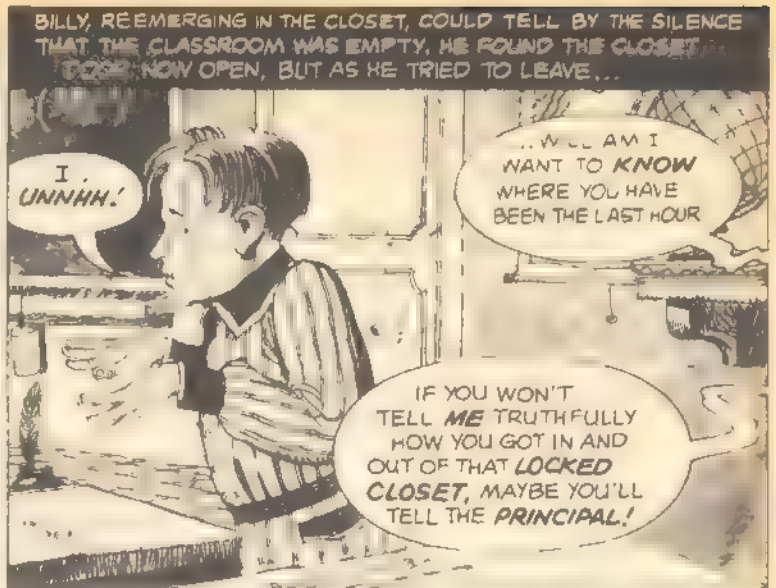
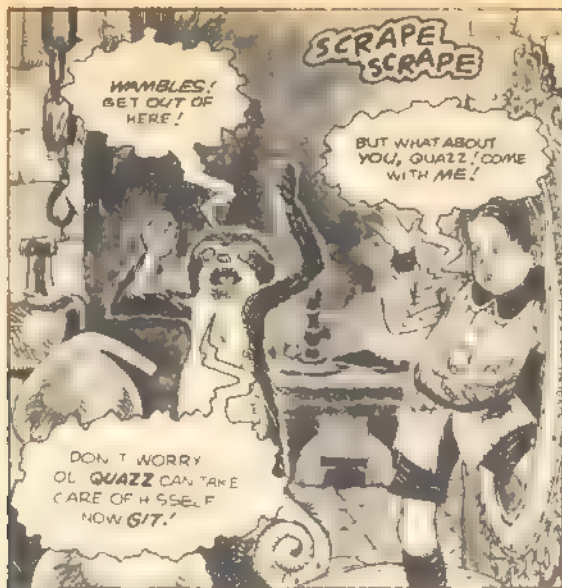




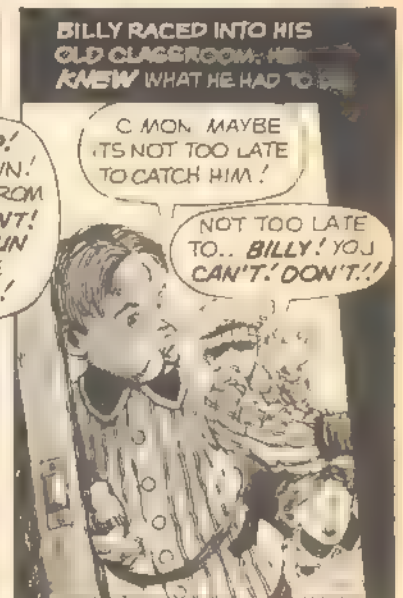
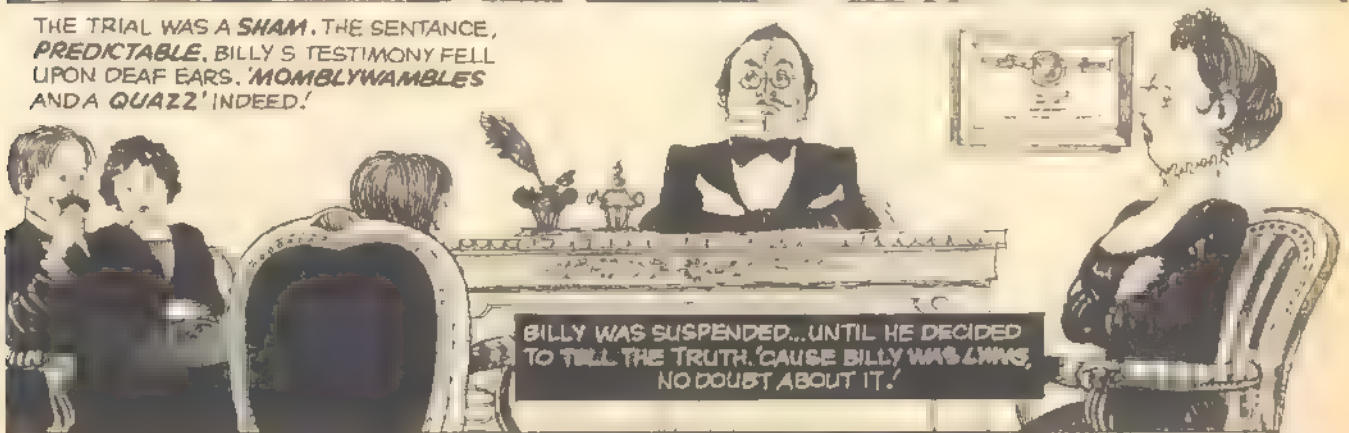


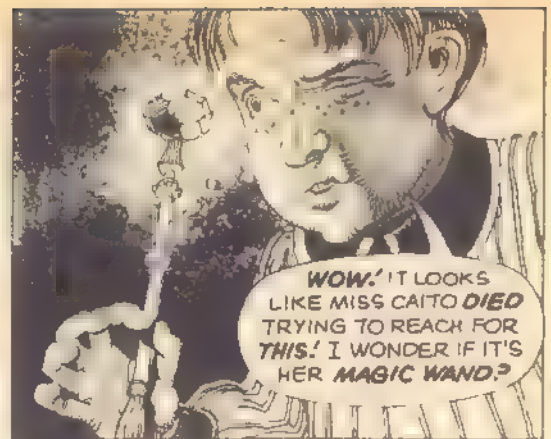




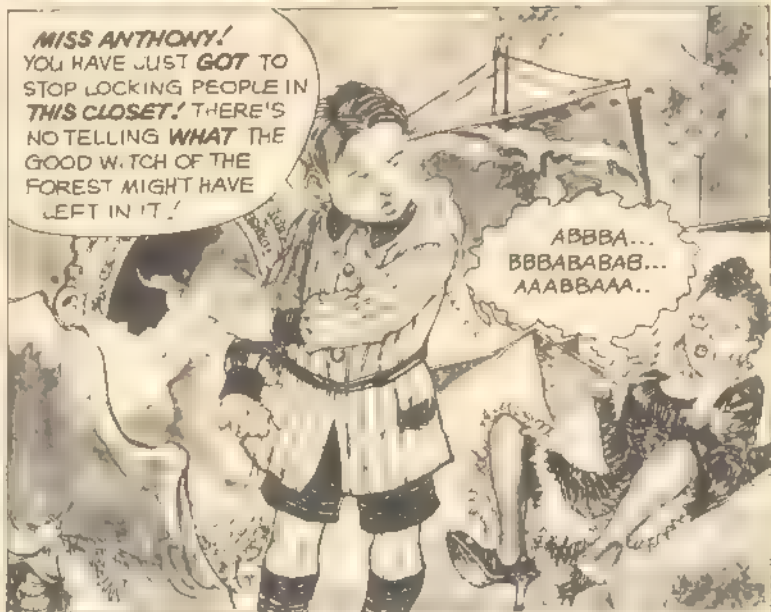
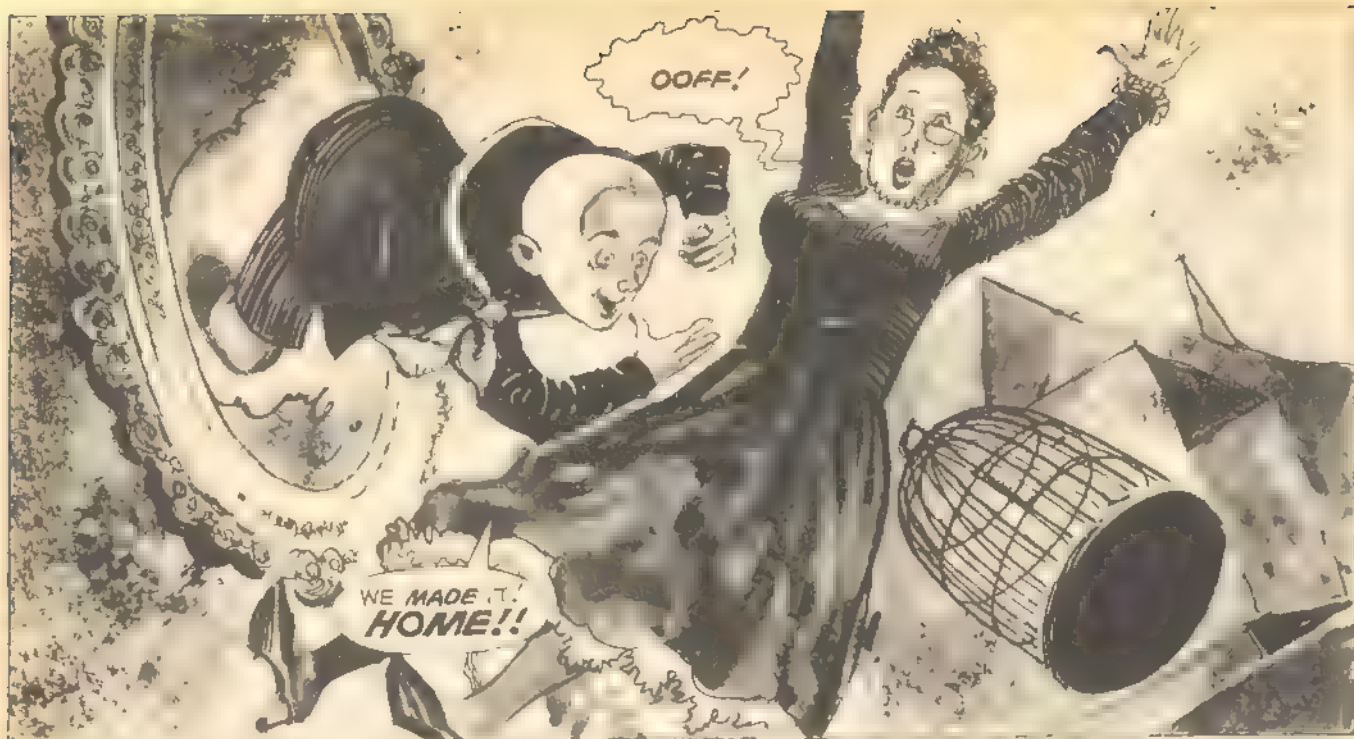


THE TRIAL WAS A **SHAM**. THE SENTENCE, **PREDICTABLE**. BILLY'S TESTIMONY FELL UPON DEAF EARS. **'MOMBLYWAMBLES** AND A **QUAZZ'** INDEED!









THEN CAME THE ANSWER. THERE WERE QUESTIONS, BUT NOBODY REALLY FREQUENTED TOO HARD FOR THE ANSWERS. NOBODY EVEN LIKED THE QUESTIONS. THE BOYS WERE HOME AND THAT WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.



THE VERY NEXT DAY, THE PRINCIPAL SENT NOTICE TO ALL TEACHERS FORBIDDING THE PRACTICE OF LOCKING CHILDREN IN CLOSETS AS PUNISHMENTS. THE CLOSET WAS NAILED SHUT.

AND THE SIXTH GRADE OF WALTER JOHN'S SCHOOL GOT ANOTHER NEW TEACHER!

WHAT'S MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF MONKEYS?

MODEL KITS 8" DOLL

PLANET OF THE APES

POSTER PUZZLES JIGSAW PUZZLES



CAESAR THE RULER
#24109 \$3.50



ZIRA THE DOCTOR
#24108 \$3.50



DR. ZAIUS Poster Puzzle is a collector's item! 9 square feet of full-color 44"x30" poster after complete 24 large pieces. Hang him on your wall. It's a snap! With wall mountings. #2694 \$4.50



GALEN Poster Puzzle is a full color spectacular! 44"x30" portrait puzzle. With 24 mammoth pieces includes mounting strips and instructions for making your own 9 square foot poster. #2694 \$4.50



Puzzle #1
#2485 \$1.25



Puzzle #2
#2486 \$1.25



Puzzle #3
#2487 \$1.25

Full color 100+ pieces 14"x10" ape scene jigsaw puzzles! Choose from 3 different scenes. Each is packed in a sturdy tin with a color photo of the puzzle. Hours of challenging fun for all!



CORNELIUS
#2440 \$3.50



GENERAL ALDO
#2468 \$3.50



DR. ZAIUS
#2441 \$3.50



GENERAL URSUS
#2467 \$3.50



APE & STALLION
#24155 \$4.49



GENERAL URSUS
#24117 \$4.75

No messy glue just snap together the molded plastic parts according to instructions. Each ape figure will have movable arms and head. Paint and display them on the stands and settings shown on the box! There's also an 8" General Ursus bendable doll. He twists in a life-like motion (with removable clothes). Ursus is almost real! Now go APE!



Build the **TYRANNOSAURUS REX**! He's the most powerful creature ever to roam the face of the earth! This hobby kit, when fully assembled stands nearly 3 feet tall! A most amazing plastic kit for you! Now #24106 \$12.99



ANKYLOSAURUS is an indestructible dinosaur due to his mace-like tail and spiked armor shell! A vegetarian but an incredibly strong animal! He is one of the last of the giant dinos. #24104 \$2.79



10" long replica of the finned **DIMETRODON** lizard! This ferocious beast comes with a prehistoric dragonfly! Its fin was used like a weather vane in days of long ago. Incredible! Order now! #24105 \$3.20



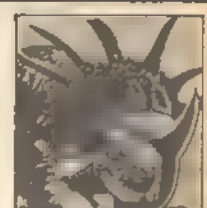
The **TAR PIT** is a perfect setting for your mammoth or any of the prehistoric animals! The kit includes a tree, a sunken rhino and also a prehistoric vulture. It's a horrifying scene! Order now #2417 \$3.50



In all his spear-throwing glory is the big **CRO-MAGNON MAN**! The plastic hobby kit is 4' tall. He can match wits with any prehistoric monster! Or display his beautiful physique! #2423 \$2.50



The **PHORORHACOS** or **GIANT BIRD** is a large meat eater. He couldn't fly! He's 6' tall. The kit is 6" and it features all details. 4 toes and the devastating jaw! A real mean bird! Now #2434 \$3.00



SPIKED DINOSAUR is the **STYRACOSAURUS**. He is multi-spiked on his head. Watch out for his horned rose! This plastic hobby kit is more than a foot long. You'll have fun pitting him against others! #2437 \$5.50



Over 4' tall and posed like she's seen a monster! The **CRO-MAGNON WOMAN** is a perfect companion for the Cro-Magnon man. Put her in the cave while her hubby hunts for dinner. Don't miss! #2422 \$2.50



This creature was 30' tall and lived in what is now the USA. He is the **GIANT ALLOSAURUS** and the kit is over 10" in height. Have him light the cave bear and see who comes out chomp! #2419 \$3.50



CAVE BEAR kit is a big 6' tall. He was the most powerful beast of the Pleistocene period! This animal was amazingly 1/3 taller than any bear of today! He is also worshipped by cults. #2433 only \$3.00

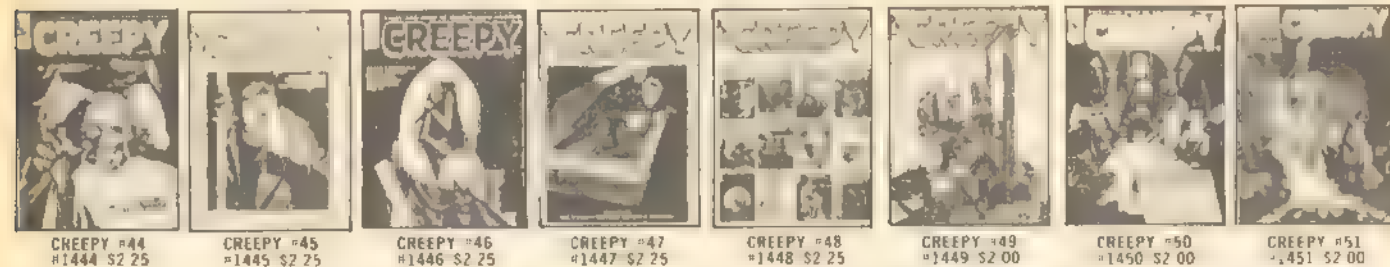
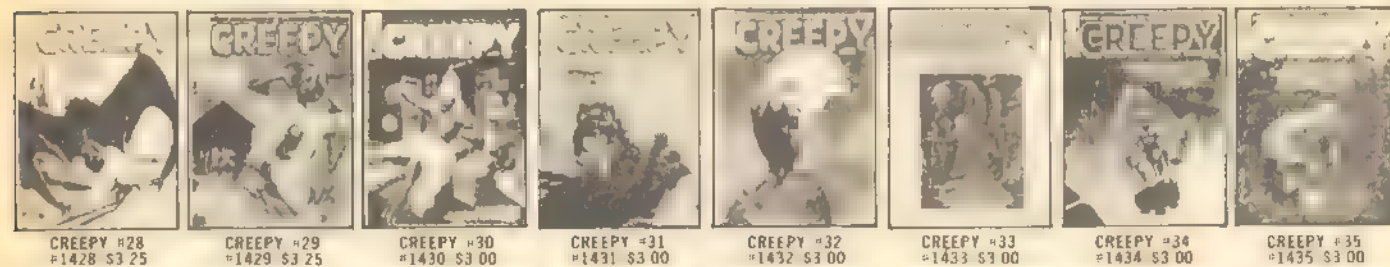
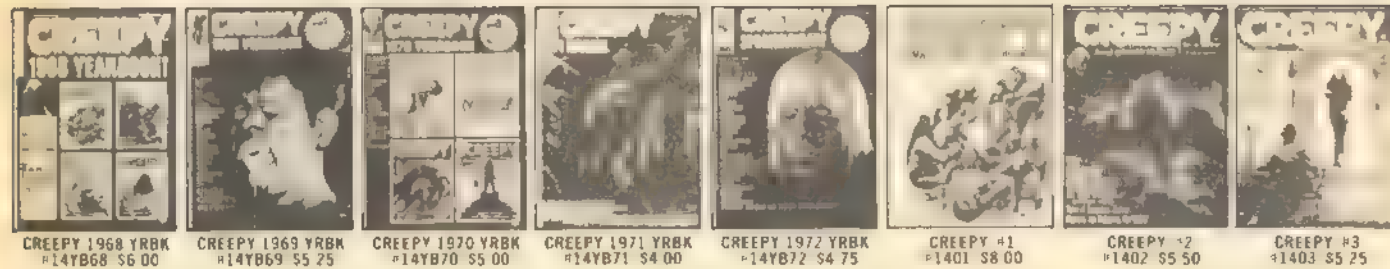


The first of the cave men **NEANDERTHAL MAN**. Lived in what is now Europe. Could survive extremely cold temperatures. The kit is 4 1/2' high, and has detailed human features. Build! #2421 \$2.50

DINOSAUR SCENES EXCITING FAVORITES! ALL-PLASTIC MONSTERS TO BUILD AND DISPLAY

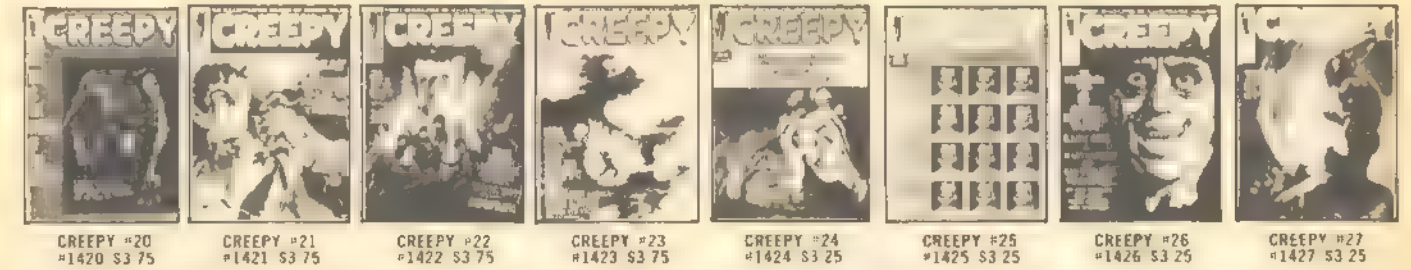
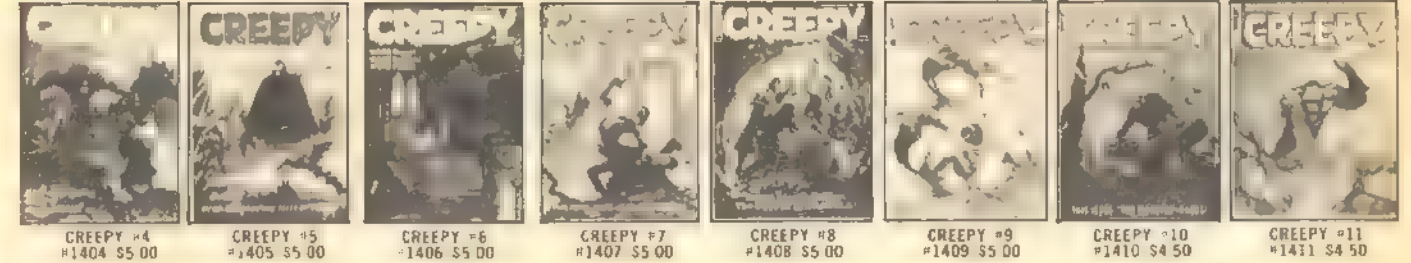
To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

ORDER CREEPY BACK ISSUES!



HOW CAN YOU PASS UP OWNING ALL THE FANTASTIC CREEPY MAGAZINES? DO YOU REMEMBER "SPAWN OF THE CAT PEOPLE" BY REED CRANDALL? FRANK FRAZETTA'S "WEREWOLF?" "CREEPY'S LOATHSOME LORE?" ANGELO TORRES "OGRE'S CASTLE" WAS A VERY SPECTACULAR TALE! ALL CREEPY STORIES ARE GREAT!!

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



LOOK AT ALL OF THOSE MAGNIFICENT COVERS! EVERY MAGAZINE IS WORTH HAVING FOR THOSE FULL-COLOR WORKS OF ART THEMSELVES! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GORY INTERIORS? EACH GRUESOME TALE IS BETTER THAN THE NEXT! "THE DAMNED THING" BY GRAY MORROW. "RUDE AWAKENING" BY ALEX TOTH. EANDO BINDER'S "ADAM LINK" SERIES, ILLUSTRATED BY JOE ORLANDO. "BEAST MAN" BY STEVE DITKO. DAN ADKIN'S "THE BECKONING BEYOND." NEAL ADAM'S "THE TERROR BEYOND TIME." REMEMBER JEFF JONES' "ANGEL OF DOOM?" TOM SUTTON'S "IMAGE OF WAX?" HOW ABOUT JERRY GRANDENETTI? HE DREW "TYPE CAST" AND "VOODOO DOLL." DID YOU ENJOY FELIX MAS' GREAT "CLIMBERS OF THE TOWER?" AND HOW ABOUT WALLY WOOD'S "THE COSMIC ALL?" DID YOU LIKE JOSE BEA'S "LIKE A PHONE BOOTH, LONG AND NARROW?" EVERY CREEPY ISSUE IS A COMIC COLLECTOR'S MUST! DON'T MISS OUT!

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

LONG PLAYING RECORDS GHOSTS, MONSTERS AND APES!

RADIO HORROR SHOWS A NEW 3 RECORD SET!

PRODUCTIONS IN A CLASS BY THEMSELVES THESE SHOWS LEFT PEOPLE SHUDDERING WITH FRIGHT! ORSON WELLES, BELA LUGOSI, BORIS KARLOFF AND JOHN CAR RADINE PERFORM AN ANTHOLOGY OF CLASSIC HORROR STORIES MANY YEARS AGO PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND THEIR RADIOS TO HEAR THESE MASTERS OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE NOW YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE SAME SHOWS WHICH HAVE BEEN REINCARNATED FOR THIS 3 RECORD SET! THE GREAT RADIO HORROR SHOWS #2375 \$9.95



A fabulously narrated record of the Apes saga. The LP consists of four complete tales: Planet of the Apes, Battle for the Planet of the Apes, Beneath the Planet of the Apes, and Order now! #2373 \$2.25



A hollow voiced narrator is your ghostly guide to a spooky array of frightening sound effects. A chilling party record for the not too faint hearted! Growls, howls, moans and groans! Order your record today! GHOSTLY SOUNDS 1 #2371 \$2.25



Squeaky doors, ghostly screams and rattling chains! A haunting collection of grizzly stereo phonic sound effects. Mad howling, chilling shrieks and low moans inside the vampire's castle and phantoms cathedral! GHOSTLY SOUNDS 2 #2372 \$2.25

SPOOKTACULAR CREEPY & EERIE MASKS!



UNCLE CREEPY DELUXE MASK

A Don Post great! Creepyish craftsmanship. High quality latex rubber and a grotesque and realistic thatch of pale hair to top him off! A morbid masterpiece that will scare the daylight out of your friends! UNCLE CREEPY DELUXE MASK #2544 \$14.95



COUSIN EERIE DELUXE MASK

Heavy durable whole head mask. Cousin Eerie is sculptured in (ugly!) high quality latex rubber with hellishly red and realistic hair on top of his hand painted face! What a classic to have for your own! Order COUSIN EERIE DELUXE MASK #2545 \$14.95

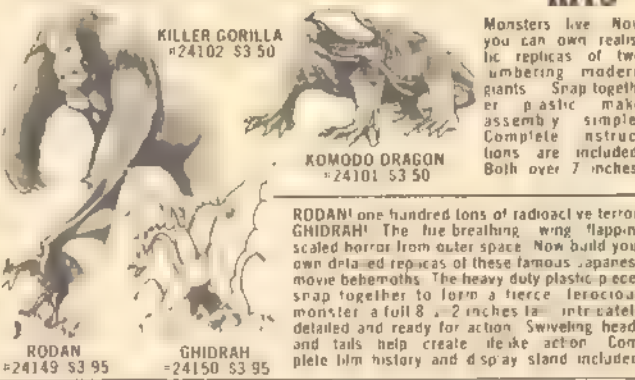
BOTH BUDGET MASKS CAST FROM SAME MOLD! ONLY ONE IS VINYL, ONE IS RUBBER!

Both the vinyl and the rubber budget masks represented to the right, look alike but the vinyl is slurdier and more heavy-duty. Both of these types of CREEPY and EERIE masks will cover your entire head. Each one is a real bargain. You and your friends can hold CREEPY and EERIE parties with all of these incredible masks. Wouldn't you like to look just like your friendish pals from your favorite comic magazines? Well, now here is your chance!



CREEPY VINYL MASK #2566 \$8.95
EERIE VINYL MASK #2567 \$8.95
CREEPY RUBBER MASK #2509 \$4.95
EERIE RUBBER MASK #2510 \$4.95

MAKE A MONSTER! MODEL KITS



KILLER GORILLA #24102 \$3.50
KOMODO DRAGON #24101 \$3.50
RODAN #24149 \$3.95
GHIDRAH #24150 \$3.95

Monsters live! Now you can own realistic replicas of two lumbering modern giants. Snap together plastic make assembly simple. Complete instructions are included! Both over 7 inches!

RODAN! one hundred tons of radioactive terror! GHIDRAH! The live breathing wing flapping scaled horror from outer space. Now build your own detailed replicas of these famous Japanese movie behemoths. The heavy duty plastic pieces snap together to form a fierce ferocious monster a full 8 1/2 inches tall. Intricately detailed and ready for action. Swiveling heads and tails help create flexible action. Complete film history and display stand included.

FRAZETTA 80 PAGE ART BOOK

Fourteen black and white drawings! Thirty-three full color paintings including nine Warren magazine cover paintings! That's 'The Fantastic Art of Frank Frazetta'! Drawings include untitled sketches, Burroughs illustrations, Lord of the Rings comic pages, others! Paintings feature science fiction heroic adventure, sword & sorcery including three details of full paintings. Reproduction is top quality on heavy-weight, coated paper. Each painting in the 9 x 11 80 page soft cover book reproduced unbacked. Biography #21201 \$5.95

THE FANTASTIC ART OF FRAZETTA



beautiful colors!

FRIGHT FILMS REGULAR 8 & SUPER 8

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN



High in the Carpathian Mountains a mad scientist works to revive the Frankenstein monster. And he succeeds, in time for the living corpse to do battle with a rampant wolfman. Lightning fangs and action galore. Fight between the monsters is one of horror fundom's finest. Stars Lugosi as Frankenstein, and Chaney as Wolfman. #2227 \$9.95

DOOM OF DRACULA



Boris Karloff portrays a carnival owner who locates the remains of Count Dracula. He brings the vampire back to life and sends him on an utterly diabolical mission. Soon, however, Karloff realizes he has made a mistake as Dracula turns on him! John Carradine plays Dracula. Sequel to 'House of Frankenstein' film. #2246 \$9.95

THE INVISIBLE MAN



This is it! The original motion picture featuring HG Wells' classic character. This effort introduced the great Claude Rains to the industry. Startling special effects by John P. Fulton, which show man who becomes transparent due to scientific experiments. A chilling absorbing film. One of the all-time greats. #2237 \$9.95

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN



Follow up feature to 'Doom of Dracula'. Karloff stars as scientist disguised as Carny owner who is journeying the world over in search of the Frankenstein monster. And finally he finds it, returning it to life. But then trouble! For the Wolfman arrives on the scene to destroy the doctor and his new patient. #2247 \$9.95

THE "ORIGINAL" MUMMY



One of Karloff's most memorable performances. One of the great horror films. Excavation in Egypt uncovers tomb of Mummy. In his tomb, that night he comes back to life. After murdering one of the scientists, the bandaged beast makes for London. There he seeks the reincarnation of his one-time Egyptian mistress. Film is imho TOPS! #2224 \$9.95

THE MUMMY'S GHOST



Here is an exciting sequel to 'The Mummy'. Lon Chaney portrays the man of rotting cloth as he terrorizes a scientific gathering about his sacred sarcophagus. And as fate would have it, he falls for the young lady scientist who is a part of this expedition. This Mummy is more brutal, more deadly than the Karloff one. #2269 \$9.95

REVENGE OF THE CREATURE



A sequel to the original 'Creature' film, this movie has a second excursion into the beast's Amazonian home to capture the monster. They take him into captivity and civilization. There, from the confines of an aquarium pool, the Creature brutally mangles his captors and escapes! Rampant the Gill Man kills many! #2254 \$9.95

I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF



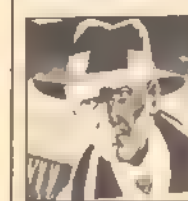
One of the most popular monster movies in history. A young boy visits a psychiatrist for to solve his various hang ups. But the doctor himself is deranged and hypnotizes the boy. Under hypnosis, the young man is convinced by the psychiatrist that he is a werewolf! Then, it's off to kill for the doctor! #2221 \$9.95

RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE



This is the big one! Vampire vs. werewolf in horrific shocker. Bela Lugosi portrays the blood-gulper who subjugates a voracious werewolf. And then, together the two go in search of unsuspecting victims. Lugosi's at his menacing best in this one of his four vampire roles. The ending is a gripping one that must be seen. #2267 \$9.95

RETURN OF DRACULA



Dracula's back in the form of actor Charles Lederer. The Count moves into a small isolated town and begins to live as a parasite, sucking the blood of the plain country folk around him. At goes well until the infamous monster is found out and hunted. One of the most unusual Dracula films ever produced. A must! #2273 \$9.95

MAN-MADE MONSTER



A team-up of two great horror actors. Lionel Atwill portrays a mad scientist and Lon Chaney a truck driver killed in an accident. Atwill discovers the body and through the use of high voltage electricity brings Chaney back to life. But the truck driver is no longer human. He becomes an electric monster. A real shocker! #2264 \$9.95

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME



A classic of filmmaking. The second filming of Hugo's immortal novel stars Charles Laughton as the horribly misshapen hunchback called Quasimodo. This brilliant film tells of the beast's love for a beauty. The gypsy Esmeralda. And the horrors that befall the young girl in the France of yore. A sensitive monster movie. #2238 \$9.95

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA



Many fans of horror films consider Christopher Lee the finest screen Dracula. And in this film his awesome talent is in evidence. Tall, violent and menacing. Lee is the immortal count. Here he travels from Transylvania to London. His plan is to ravage four respectable families in the great city. And this he does brutally! #2265 \$9.95

STRAIT-JACKET



Joan Crawford star of 'What Ever Happened to Baby Jane' joined with Rosemary's Baby! Bill Castle to create this modern day horror classic. This film is not for the faint hearted, as it is about a series of brutal axe murders. Is Crawford victim or killer? Warning: vicious axe killings appear in this film. A real shocker! #2266 \$9.95

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS

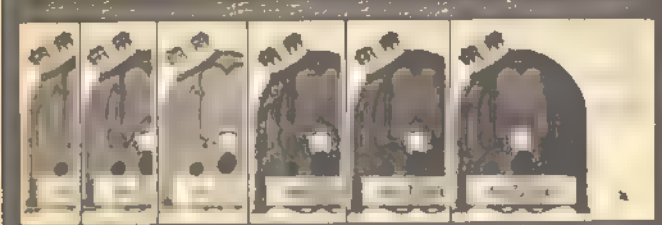


Peter Lorre stars in this incredible film of a concert pianist. So far not very frightening. But when he is possessed by devilish madness his gentle hands become instruments of vile murder. And then is unleashed the incredible Beast With Five Fingers. Lorre at his horrific best with a fine supporting cast. #2230 \$9.95

REMEMBER RADIO?

SIX GREAT RECORDS FEATURING THE BEST-LOVED OLD RADIO PROGRAMS!

It's all here! For people who remember and people who want to know what the excitement was all about! Organ music, quivering voices, funky commercials. Memorabilia Records brings you the best from an era of greats-favorites from the era when Radio Was King!



MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY SET UP FOR REENTRY. A crusading reporter friend of the D.A. uncovers return of exiled underworld boss Rocky Riccino the biggest gangster yet flushed out of hiding. When he is killed the D.A. vows Rocky's capture and his gang. #2348 \$4.98

FBI PEACE AND WAR. The Traveling Man. A car thief makes plans to double-cross the mob and takes a honeymoon in a stolen car with his innocent bride providing the FBI with all the clues needed to break up an interstate car theft ring. Ad is Blycreme. #2349 \$4.98

TERRY AND THE PI RATES. Terry and Flip Rates. Countess Catherine. Is she spy or counterspy? Also JACK ARMSTRONG. The American Boy joins his friends in the Andes for high adventure as they rescue Alvin and his friends from a glacier cave. By Puffed Wheat & Wheaties. #2350 \$4.98

GANGBUSTERS 1950. A documentation of a police search in Chicago for a local criminal returning from the West Coast with loot from a boat heist there. Foot that finally provides the clue to his location and capture. An antique diamond ring! U.S. Defense Bonds. #2351 \$4.98

INNER SANCTUM #1. DEATH BY SCRIPTURE. Major Roger Maxon is confronted by an escaping refugee who tells him if he goes back it will mean death not just for me but for many. Thus begins an adventure involving the "Black Dragon Society". Lip ton ad. #2352 \$4.98

INNER SANCTUM #2. TILL DEATH DO US PART. What a way to spend a wedding night! A honeymooning couple witness a murder find the corpse in bed in their cabin and themselves the next intended victims of the murderer. Brought to you by Lipton Tea. #2353 \$4.98

A POE-BOUREE OF PRIZED NEW PRODUCTS

Leonard Wolf: MONSTERS



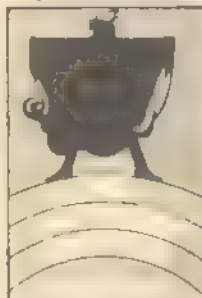
This 7-3 4 x 7 4 pa perback is a 128 page as sembly of 20 class c mon sters. From Minotaur Phoenix Griffin to Frank enstein King Kong and Godzilla Wolf relates their history and significance. Old woodcuts engravings and illustrations plus modern photos enliven the already lively text. #21146 MONSTERS \$4 95

Modesty Blaise: IMPOSSIBLE VIRGIN



MODESTY BLAISE Back for you Action fans! A lady secret agent, star of the British comic strip by author Peter O'Donnell a 209 page 5 x 8 hard cover nove. #21085 MODESTY BLAISE \$3 95

LATE, GREAT CREATURE



Fast paced 300 page 5 1 2 x 8 1 2 hardcover novel of a Hollywood mon ster star whose appear ance in his last horror film builds to a terrify ing climax. #21083 THE LATE GREAT CREATURE \$3 95



PREHISTORIC (Monster) ANIMALS

Mammoth 8 3 4 x 12 inch hard cover book illustrated with fantastic full color paintings of huge umbering giants and wily weird wonders of the pre historic past. Fine fact pack ed and fascinating 93 pages. First sold at \$4 00. #21084 PREHISTORIC ANIMALS \$2 98

SOFT COVER FILM BOOKS WITH STOP MOTION FORMAT!

JAMES WHALE'S CLASSIC FRANKENSTEIN! JOHN HUSTON'S "THE MALTESE FALCON!" 2 SOFT COVER FILM BOOKS THAT PROVE THAT A PICTURE IS WORTH 1000 WORDS! WHAT ARE 1000'S OF PICTURES WORTH? SEE FOR YOURSELF!



Wheale's Frankenstein re constructed frame by frame in this exciting 12 x 9 soft cover book 256 pages of over 1000 sequential photos and script reenact this classic. #21124 \$4 95



A photo journal of the phenomenal mystery clas sic. Giant 12 x 9 256 page soft cover film book. Over 1400 photos plus dialogue presented scene by scene. Graphic rendition. #21125 \$4 95



256 page soft cover film book with 1500 sequentially frame bow up photos. Complete dialogue from original soundtrack. Every clas sic scene reviewed. #21195 \$4 95



Over 1300 frames with original dialogue from this thriller 12 x 9 soft cover film book is pre sented in frame by frame breakdown with 256 pages of the action. #21163 \$4 95

ALFRED HITCH COCK'S GREAT "PSYCHO!" DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE! FRAME-BY-FRAME BREAK DOWNS OF FABULOUS FILMS! ALL THE ORIGINAL RECORDED DIALOGUE IS HERE FOR YOU! ALL 4 BOOKS ARE 12 X 9 BEAUTIES! STARS GALORE!

SUPER ADVENTURE RECORD ALBUMS

Now you can own the most exciting full-length stories of all-time, in the form of these seven adventure-filled record albums. Each is a long-playing 33-1/3 disc, with exciting sound effects, professional actors, and thrill-a-minute action. Based on novels by HG Wells and Jules Verne, these tales of high-adventure will lift you out of the ordinary and into worlds of fantastic imagination. Own the entire set; each is 45 minutes of excitement. Order today!



FIRST MEN IN THE MOON by HG Wells. This is the story of two men who journey from the earth to the moon in the late 19th century. There they find the incredible selenites. #2354 \$2 49



THE TIME MACHINE by HG Wells. A man travels from 1899 to the year 800,000. There, he finds a world of monsters such as human eyes have never before beheld. A sci-fi classic! #2355 \$2 49



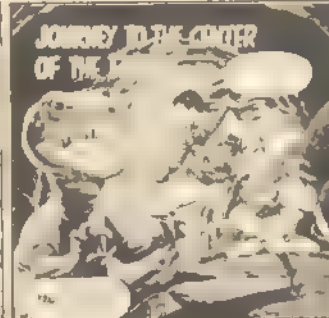
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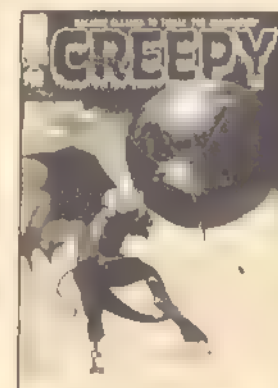
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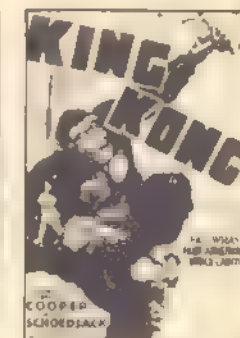
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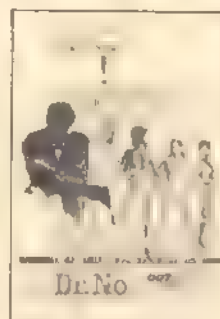
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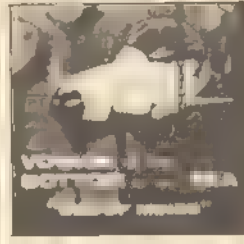
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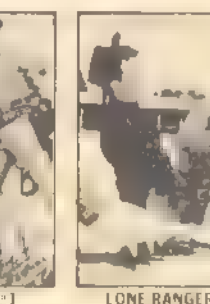
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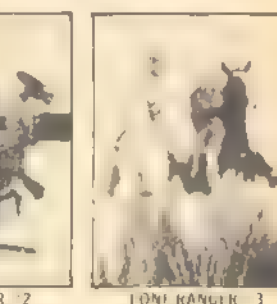
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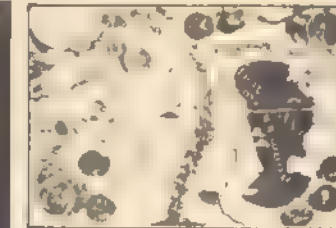


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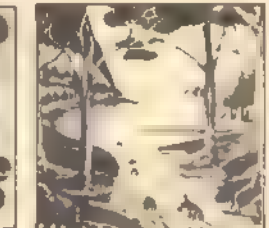
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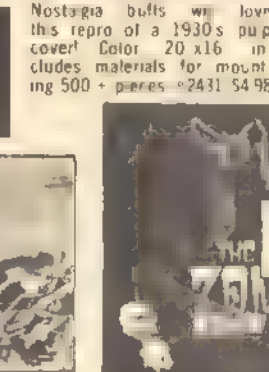
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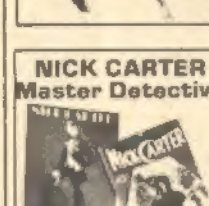


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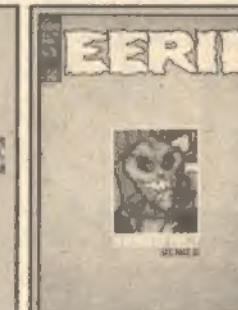
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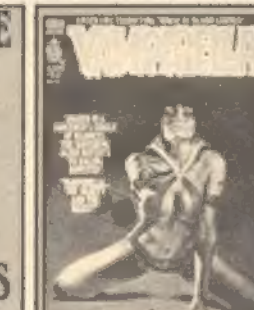
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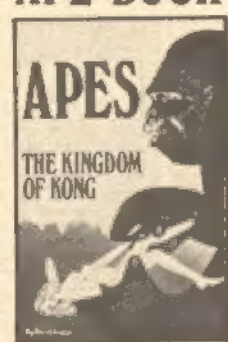
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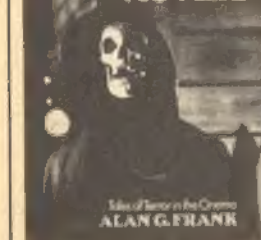


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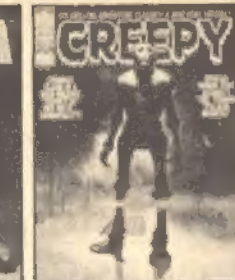


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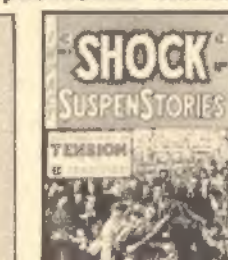
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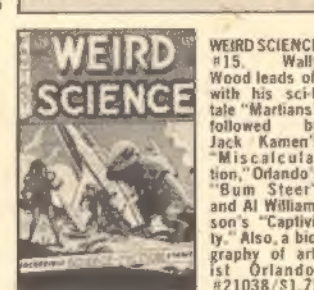
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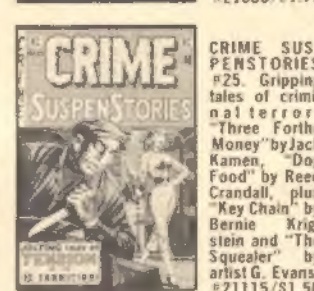
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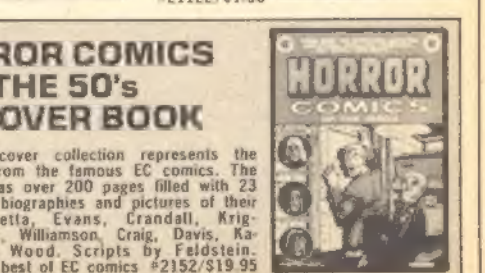
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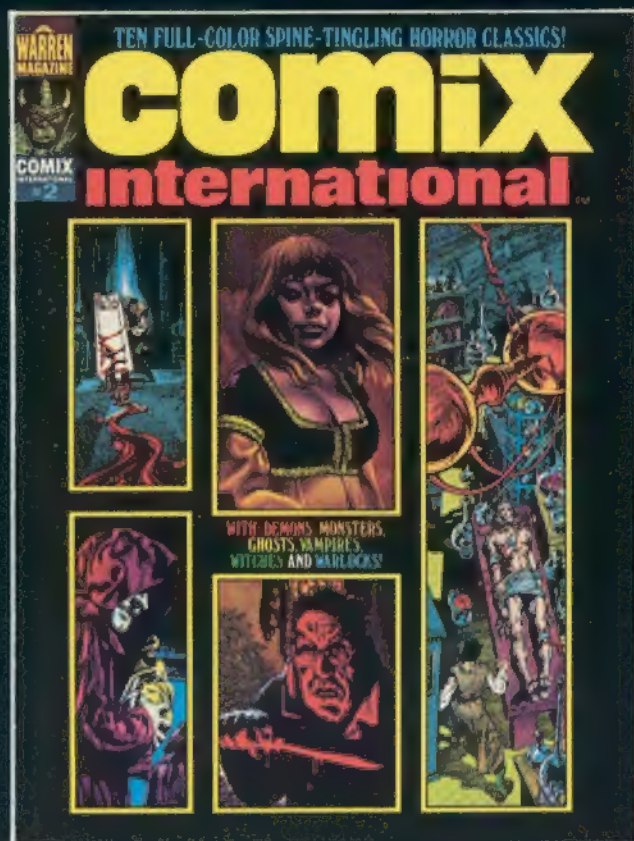
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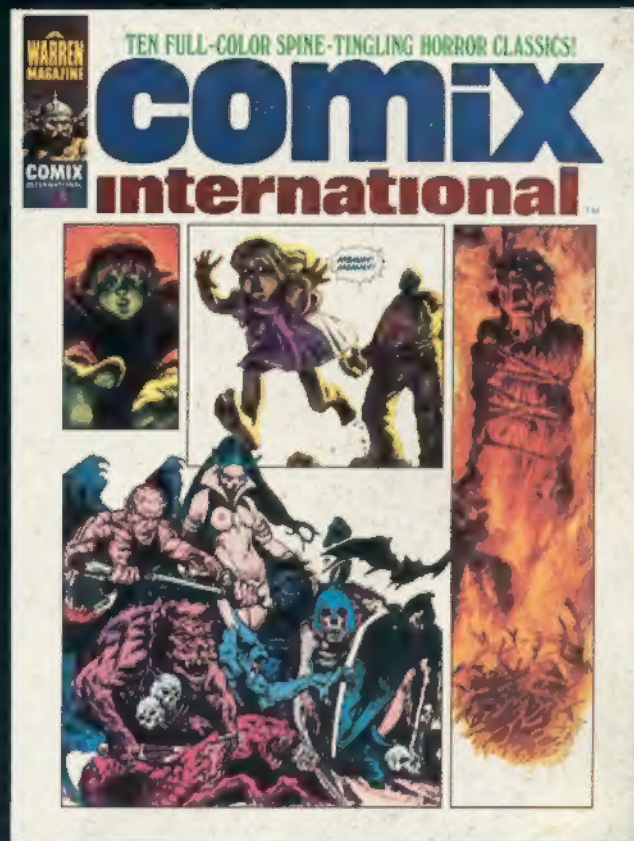
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